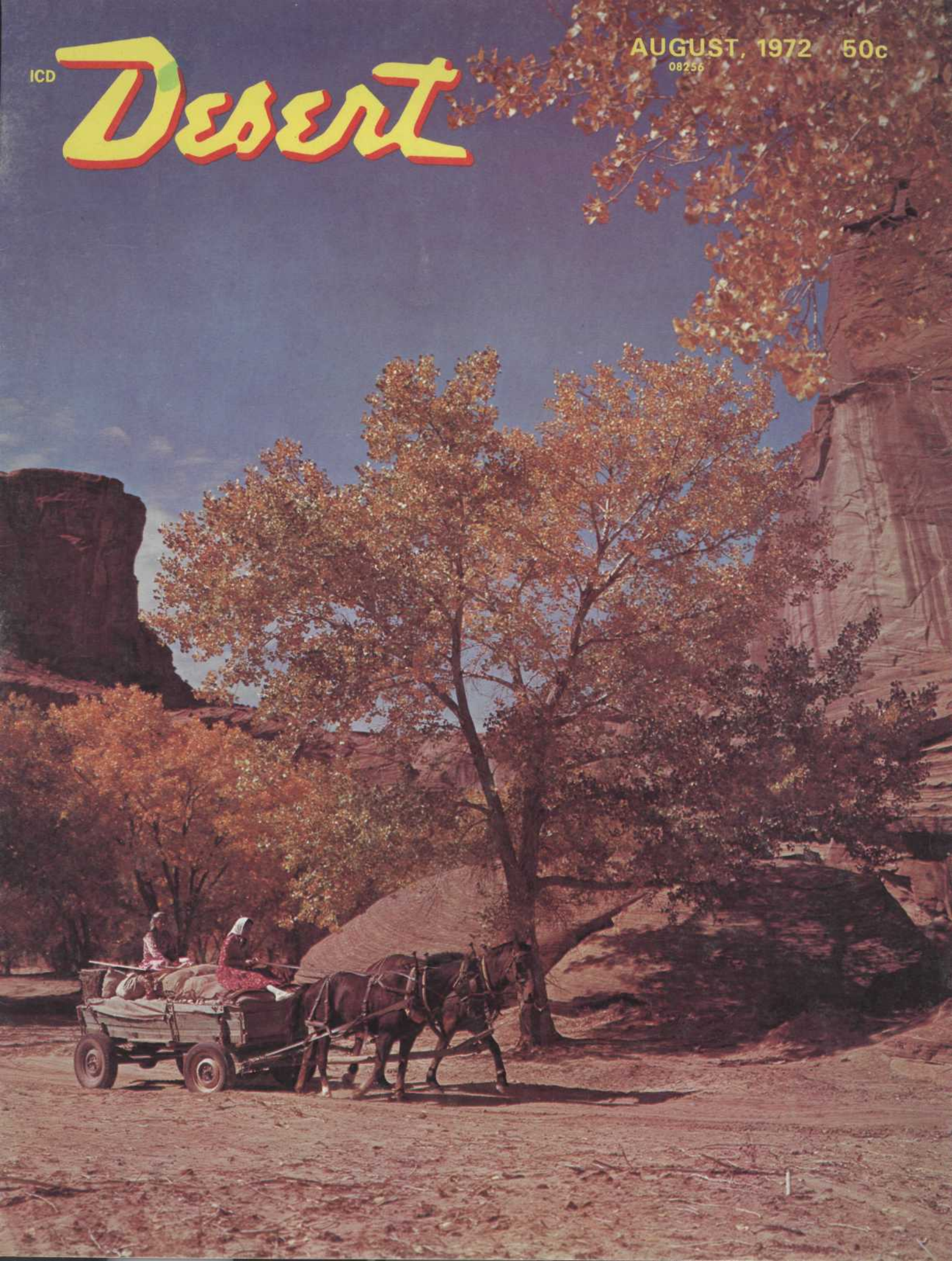


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# Desert

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# Desert Magazine Book Shop

**SUN, SAND AND SOLITUDE** by Randall Henderson. For more than 50 years Randall Henderson has traveled across the deserts of the West until today he is known as the voice and prophet of this region of mystery, solitude and beauty. Founder of *Desert Magazine* in 1931, he has devoted his life to understanding the great outdoors. His second and latest book is a culmination of his experiences, thoughts and philosophy. Hardcover, deluxe format, deckle-edged paper, 16 pages full color, excellent illustrations, \$7.95.

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**LOST MINES & BURIED TREASURES ALONG THE OLD FRONTIER** by John D. Mitchell. The second of Mitchell's books on lost mines which was out-of-print for many years is available again. Many of these appeared in *DESERT* Magazine years ago and these issues are no longer available. New readers will want to read these. Contains the original map first published with the book and one pinpointing the areas of lost mines. Mitchell's personal research and investigation has gone into the book. Hardcover, 240 pages, \$7.50.

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**CORONADO'S CHILDREN** by J. Frank Dobie. Originally published in 1930, this book about lost mines and buried treasures of the West, is a classic and is as vital today as when first written. Dobie was not only an adventurer, but a scholar and a powerful writer. A combination of legends and factual background. Hardcover, 376 pages, \$3.95.

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Volume 35, Number 8      AUGUST, 1972

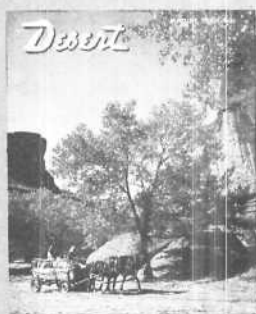
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#### THE COVER:

After their surrender to Kit Carson at Canyon de Chelly in 1863, the proud Navajo Indians were banished from their native lands for five years until the "Great White Father" realized his mistake and allowed the tribe to return in 1868. Today there is peace and tranquility in the historic canyon. Photo by Ray Manley, Tucson, Arizona.

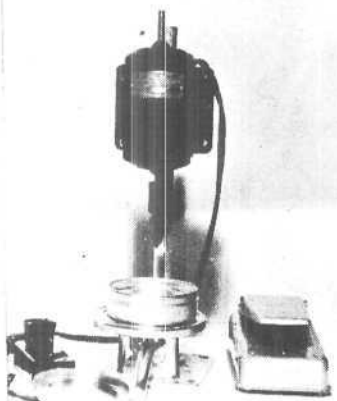
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MARVEL BARRETT, *Circulation Manager*

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# A Peek in the Publisher's Poke

THE SANDS of the desert are being closely examined for the possible exclusion of special interest groups. For those who adopt a "it will never happen" attitude, let us note that the sands of the beaches have already fallen under new regulations by the California Fish and Game Commission. Due to the increasing threat posed by tourists and students who swarm over the beaches by the thousands collecting seaweed, periwinkles, sea slugs, and star fish, regulations are now in effect covering the tide pools along California's 1200-mile-long coastline.

Many areas that were formerly rich in marine life have been denuded and collectors have concentrated in previously untouched areas where depletion is proceeding at an accelerated pace.

Penalties for violation of the new regulations are \$500 or six months in jail—or both—for stripping marine life from tide pools.

Collecting is outlawed between the high tide mark and 1,000 feet beyond the low tide mark without a DFG permit.

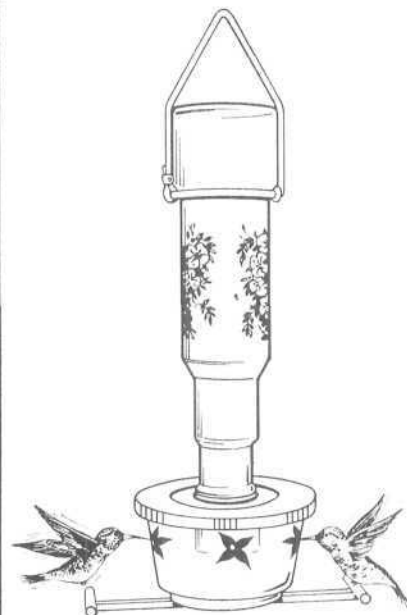
Qualified researchers can get permits, while schools must work through county boards of education to set up special collecting programs.

Exemptions include: Taking abalone, clams, crabs, lobsters, scallops, cockles and sea urchins at state parks, beaches and reserves, and national parks; taking, squid, sand dollars, limpets, mussels, octopi, shrimp and chiones—and marine life that can be taken from state parks—at all other areas except wild life refuges and other closed areas.

Today the beaches, tomorrow the desert. It could happen.

*William Kuykendall*

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*Contrasts*

*John Hilton*

# Painter of the Desert

Many art critics consider John Hilton the foremost painter of desert scenes of the West. His oils are hung in galleries throughout the United States and are constantly in demand. Desert Magazine has a limited supply of prints of his painting entitled "Contrasts" showing sand dunes covered with desert wildflowers and the Santa Rosa Mountains in the background.

The four-color prints are 11x17 inches on mat paper with two-inch margins. Ideal for framing, are mailed rolled, in a tube. These prints are available to Desert Magazine readers for only \$2.50, including tax and postage. Send check or money order to DESERT, Contrasts, Box 1318, Palm Desert, California 92260.



## FISH! FISH! FISH!

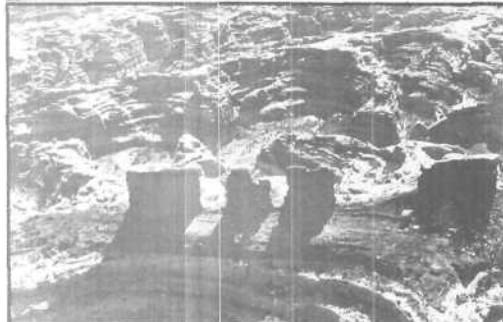
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## Book Reviews

by Jack Pepper

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### FLORA OF BAJA NORTE

By Tina Kasbeer



Another interesting book which will be welcomed by Baja buffs is *Flora of Baja Norte* by a botanist who spends all of her free time in Baja. Although existing Baja travel guides touch briefly on the endemic plants of the country, this is the first book to go into detail.

Many of the plant specimens exist nowhere else in the world, are weird in shape and in some cases so isolated they are botanical puzzles. One familiar to many Baja travelers is the *cirio* or, as it is called by many, the Inverted Carrot. It grows up and then down.

The author not only describes the plants but also tells how the Indians—and today's residents—use certain of the plants for medicinal purposes. Although accurate in every detail, this book is written for the layman and should be included in your Baja research library.

Paperback, illustrated, 36 pages, \$1.00.

### SAN BERNARDINO MOUNTAIN TRAILS

By  
John W. Robinson

San Bernardino  
Mountain Trails



An experienced hiker and writer, John W. Robinson has a new book on hiking trails in the San Bernardino Mountains which is crammed with information about 100 back-country trips into Southern California's historic range.

His previous book, *Trails of the An-*



gels, in which he explored the San Gabriel Mountains, was (and still is) a popular guide and is called the "bible" by many hikers. His book on the San Bernardino Mountains, was (and still is) a popular comprehensive.

Handy to carry and easily put in a backpack pocket, the new trail guide also has a detailed fold-out map of the areas covered. It not only locates the trails, streams, lakes, campgrounds and ranger stations, but also describes the gold mines, stamp mills, Indian sites and other historical landmarks found along the trails.

Since the book has both easy one-day walks and more rugged backpack trips, it will be useful to both amateur and veteran outdoor enthusiasts. The 100 trips are illustrated with detailed information. Heavy paperback, 257 pages, \$4.95.

#### OREGON COAST

#### OREGON COAST

Photos by  
Ray Atkeson

Text by  
Archie Satterfield



One of the most beautiful shorelines in the world, the Oregon coast stretches from the Columbia River to the California border. The magnificent continental boundary runs the full range of all kinds of beauty with rugged headlands, small coves, sandy beaches, sheer cliffs, fragile estuaries, broad tideflats and dense rain forests.

Photographer Ray Atkeson has spent many years exploring and photographing the area and his quest for beauty is presented in the *Oregon Coast*, undoubtedly the finest collection of color photographs of the shoreline ever presented in book form.

The text by Archie Satterfield traces the history of the Oregon coast, the developmental problems and the highlights of various trips down the coast.

Noted for his ocean and coast photographs, Atkeson is one of the nation's outstanding color masters. Large 11 x 14 format, heavy slick paper, hardcover, 124 pages. A book you will want to leave on your living room table for visitors to admire. \$19.00 until January, 1973, then \$22.00.



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# MALHEUR . . .

Established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the heart of the Oregon desert contains hundreds of different waterfowl and native birds, plus 33 species of mammals, making it an ideal "hunting ground" for photographers.

THERE WAS a chill in the autumn air, even though rays of the late afternoon sun cast a golden shadow across the field of ripened grain. For a moment all was quiet. Then faint honking sounds could be heard. They grew louder as formations of Canada Geese came into view. The first "Vee" dropped and we trembled with excitement as wave after wave of these majestic birds settled into the field to feed. The tumult reached thundering crescendos as hundreds of geese enjoyed their evening meal.

Though it was a moment to savor and long remember, it was but a prelude to many thrilling experiences we would enjoy during a visit to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in the heart of the Oregon Desert. Malheur is pronounced MAY-HEWER.



Malheur encompasses the largest remaining freshwater marsh in the United States and is one of the most outstanding wildlife refuges in our country. Established as a preserve and breeding grounds for native birds by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908, the Refuge also provides a habitat for 33 species of mammals.

A trip to Malheur Refuge affords an opportunity to visit wildlife in its native habitat. You are the guest here and will find it necessary to quietly drive along the roads and dikes, then wait patiently to observe or photograph the inhabitants. The entire Refuge is open to the public; and, though many access roads have locked gates, the keys are readily given to all serious observers. Malheur is ours to enjoy as long as we abide by the few simple rules.

Visiting season at Malheur is from April to November with mid-April through May and September through October possibly the best periods. Mosquitoes abound during June and July as no pesticides are used on the Refuge.

A paved road leads to Malheur Headquarters, 30 miles south of Burns, Oregon. The first stop should be at the fine museum, open 24 hours daily, with an excellent exhibit of refuge birds and mam-

*Under the direction of John Scharff, who was manager for 36 years, Malheur became one of the nation's outstanding wild bird sanctuaries.*



mals. Descriptive literature, maps and a bird list are provided. You may also obtain the literature by writing to Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, P. O. Box 113, Burns, Oregon 97720.

Casual visitors, or those with limited time, can observe many waterfowl species on the spring-fed pond at Headquarters. The Audubon bird-blind is here and available to anyone interested in taking photo-



# A DESERT REFUGE

by  
**Mary  
Frances  
Strong**

Photos  
by  
**Jerry  
Strong**



*The Audubon  
bird-blind affords  
photographers an  
opportunity for  
excellent close-up  
shots of waterfowl.*

graphs. A climb to the top of the 50-foot viewing tower will provide a birds-eye view of the Refuge. A small herd of antelope is confined to a large fenced area under the tower. They are often in favorable positions for photographs.

It is possible to spend just a day and "glimpse" Malheur, but to really see it requires at least several days. All modern accommodations are available in Burns.

Campers will find facilities, complete with hookups, at the Environmental Research Center a few miles south of Headquarters.

Jerry and I arrived at Malheur in mid-October of last year. An early winter storm had left a blanket of snow on the mountains and brought a crisp, fall chill to the air. During our visit, we encountered cloudy days and a light snow fell one night.

After visiting the museum, we talked at length with Richard Toltzmann, the acting refuge manager. He marked a map to indicate the best points for observation and photos, gave us the key needed to open gates, then we were off to explore the Refuge.

The first day we drove out into Malheur Lake via Cole Island Dike. We set up our cameras but the sight of so many Trumpeter Swans, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Wood Ducks, Western Grebes, several species of geese and ducks had us "gaping" more than picture taking.

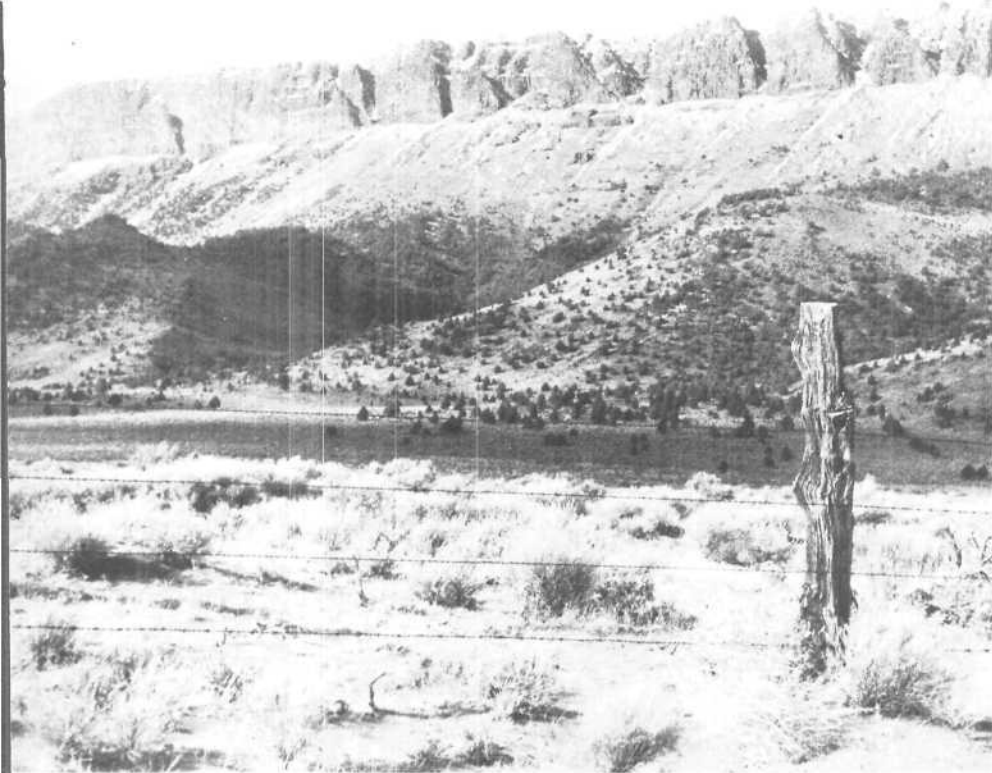
Avid birders for many years, the variety of waterfowl had us thumbing the pages of our bird book and thrilling to the many new sightings. To residents of a desert where "there ain't no water," this great marsh in the heart of the Oregon Desert was almost unbelievable.

We spent some time in the Audubon bird-blind taking color photos even though the weather was unfavorable. But for us, the joy of just seeing such a wide variety of birdlife was most meaningful.

Trips to Buena Vista Ponds, Krumbo Reservoir, Boca Lake, "P" Ranch Station and numerous other areas filled our days. We were up early and generally returned well after dark. Late one afternoon, we slowly drove along a section of the Center Patrol Road. Dozens of quail crossed ahead of us, then a cock pheasant emerged from cover to look us over. We stopped. Another cock appeared, then another and another until over two dozen pheasants ambled along the road in front of us.

The sun was dropping over the rim-rocks as we continued south. A movement in the brush caught my eye and I signalled Jerry to stop. We waited and wondered if anything would happen. Then cautiously, a doe (Mule Deer) came out into the center of the road. She observed us for awhile, then switched her tail and a tiny fawn put in an appearance. In a moment its twin joined the family circle. Mother deer felt a little nervous at our presence and guided her babies into the brush.

When they had gone, we drove south a short distance and were rewarded with



*Volcanic rimrocks (above) dominate the Malheur land of rivers, lakes and marshes. Spring-fed ponds (below) are favorite spots for friendly geese.*

the sighting of a herd of about 30 deer grazing in a meadow. They seemed undisturbed by our presence and continued browsing as we drove away.

This was one of the remarkable advantages to be found at Malheur—lengthy observations of bird and animal activities. We enjoyed watching a pair of beavers

working on their dam and several muskrats repairing their houses.

Early one morning, we explored the southern end of the Refuge near Frenchglen. When it was time for a coffee break, we parked along the bank of the Donner and Blitzen River (locally shortened to Blitzen River). We quickly recognized

a saucy Belted Kingfisher. From his vantage point on a limb above the water, he kept us entertained by diving after unwary fish.

We also found ourselves in the middle of a "cattle drive" when two cowboys brought a small herd across the river and drove them up the rimrocks onto the alluvial fans of Steens Mountain. We, too, visited this magnificent mountain which rises from the desert floor in solitary isolation to an elevation of nearly 10,000 feet. But this is another story we will be telling you in a future issue.

One of the wariest, pugnacious and difficult animals to observe is the badger. Though short-legged and rather stout, he can quickly dig or race out of sight as you approach. We saw a sizeable adult digging into a ground squirrel nest. He didn't care for our intrusion and, after looking us over for a few moments hastened over the ridge and out of sight.

It was well after dark one evening when we headed toward our trailer parked at the Environmental Station. The car lights caught a flash of movement and reflected two shining eyes. Jerry put on the brakes. A beautiful mountain lion wanted to cross the road. After a short hesitation he crossed in front of us, then leaped up on the low rimrock. Switching his tail he turned and growled a "thank you." Mountain lions are fast facing extinction. They have an important role to play in the balance of nature and have recently been placed on the list of protected species.

During our week at Malheur, we sighted 37 species of birds and 13 mammals. Mr. Toltzmann assured us this was a good record for so late in the season.

The area encompassed by Malheur Refuge (181,000 acres) with its lakes, rivers and marshes has played an important role in the history of Oregon's desert country. Peter Skene Ogden, famed Hudson Bay Company explorer, first crossed southeastern Oregon in 1826. It was a time of great drought and he found bands of Indians encamped near Malheur Lake. They were all facing starvation due to the scarcity of game. Ogden was not impressed with the area's potential and headed his party south leaving the Malheur Region unexploited.

This, of course, was not to last. There was no drought during the 1850s when prospectors traveled through the Malheur area en route to Idaho silver strikes. They





told of grass-covered hills and valleys, lakes and marshes teeming with waterfowl and abundant game. When this news reached the outside world, settlement began.

It seems only natural that the first permanent residents would be trappers. In 1862, four of them elected to settle at the edge of a spring-fed pond (at what is now Headquarters) where they built a sod house. It is also understandable that the more aggressive stockmen would find the area of interest. They came and the names John Devine, Miller & Lux, Fine, Smythe and Peter French would become well known in the annals of Harney County.

Peter French settled in Blitzen Valley in 1872 and built a cattle empire around his "P" Ranch, now part of the Refuge. Several other ranches were added to the Refuge over the years including the "Double O" in the Harney Lake area.

There was not a great deal of development during nearly three decades following the establishment of Malheur Refuge. This was all to change when a vigorous, forward-looking, young Oregonian John Scharff joined the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. In 1935, John came to Malheur as Refuge Manager.

He brought with him progressive plans to build a great Refuge that would provide protection for the wildlife, yet allow use by the public. Over the years, John has seen his plans and most of his dreams come true. Until his retirement in July 1971, after 36 years at Malheur, he worked to develop the Refuge into one of Oregon's, as well as this country's, most valued natural resources.

Sitting on a dike in the pristine setting of Malheur Lake, one has time to think while watching Sandhill Cranes stalking the water and Trumpeter Swans swimming by. How fortunate we are to still have such a region to visit in this period of time when "wild land" is almost gone.

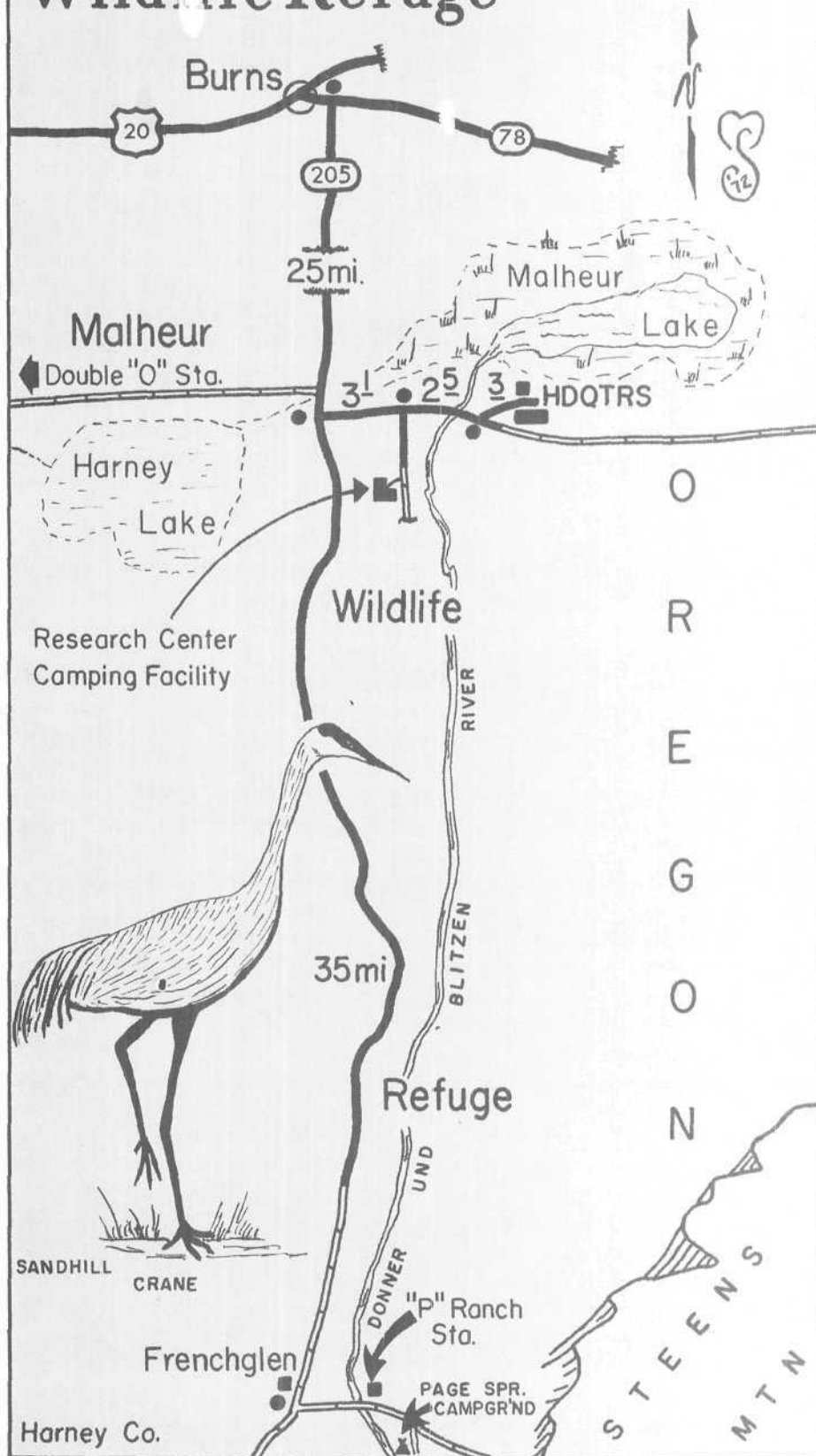
We must protect our Refuges and not allow the land to be taken for other uses. We must protect our wildlife and in doing so protect ourselves. Without the beauty of wild land and its inhabitants, there will be little food for our souls.

Malheur demonstrates how man and wildlife can live together compatibly. A visit to the Refuge is an experience of beauty—one you, too, will long savor and never forget. □

# MALHEUR National Wildlife Refuge



CANADA GOOSE



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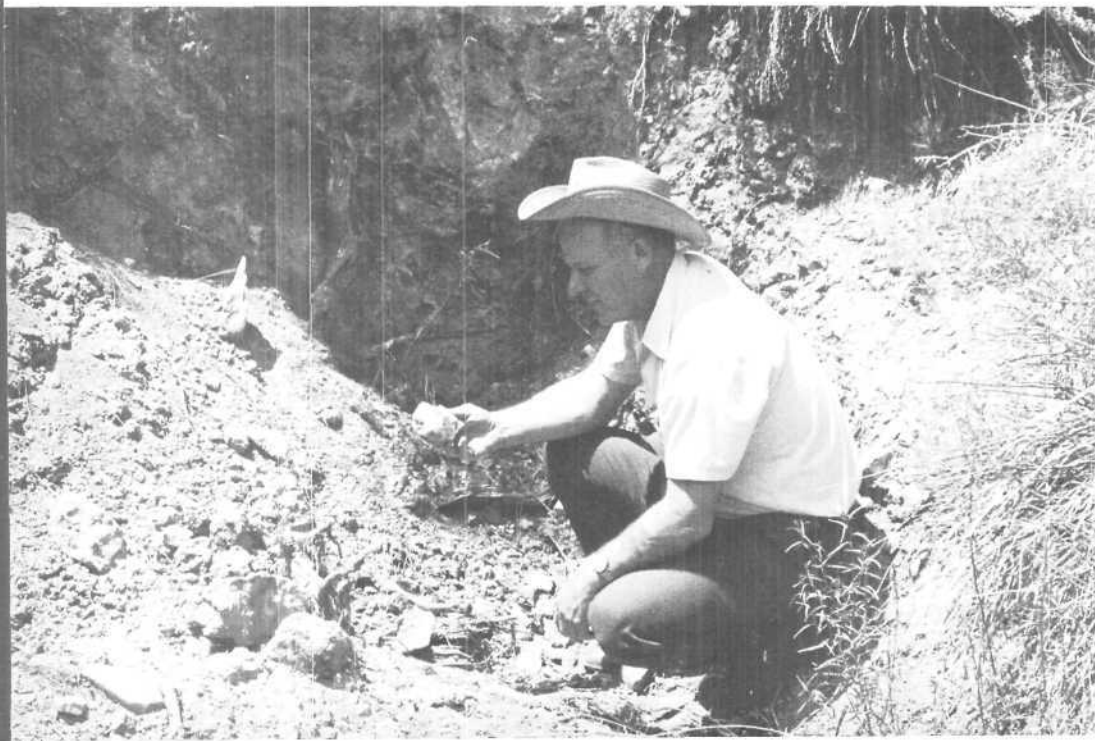
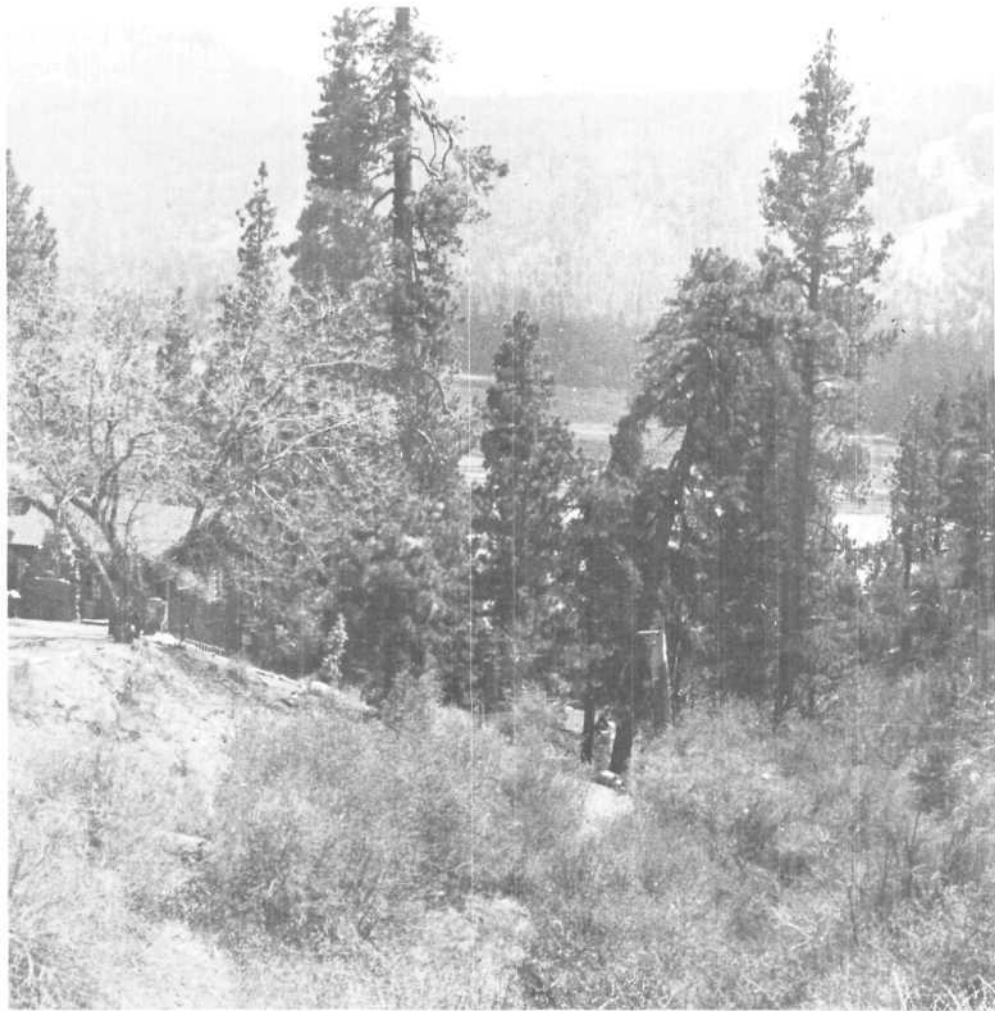
## A California Treasure Trail

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# The Lost Mine



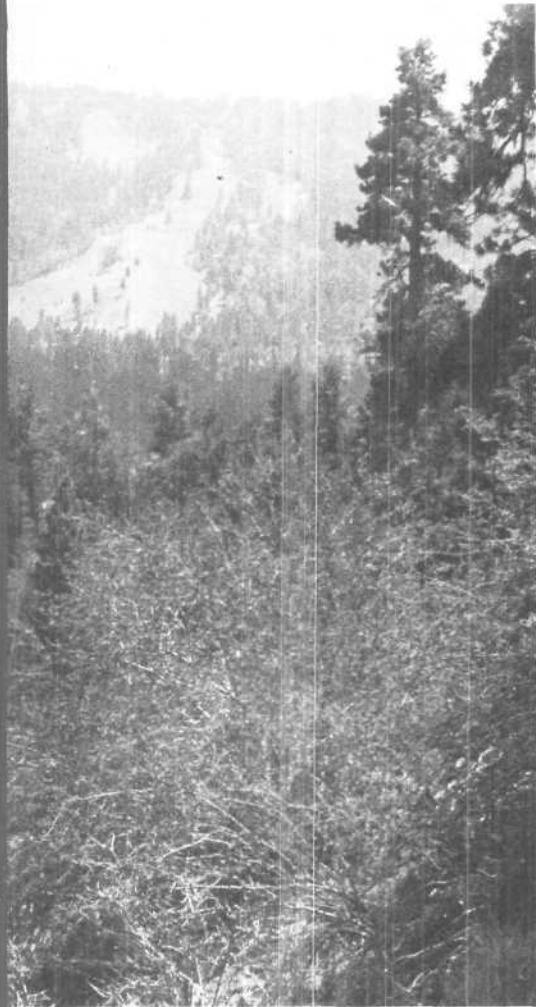
ARMED WITH A METAL DETECTOR  
AND A GOLD PAN,  
A TREASURE HUNTER SEARCHES  
FOR A LOST GOLD MINE  
NEAR BIG BEAR LAKE  
IN CALIFORNIA'S SAN BERNARDINO  
COUNTY, WHERE GOLD WAS  
MINED IN THE 1860s.  
THE AREA IS COVERED WITH  
HEAVY BRUSH IN A STEEP CANYON  
BUT THE AUTHOR BELIEVES  
THE GOLD IS "SOMEWHERE  
IN THOSE HILLS."



*Hidden by the heavy brush,  
(above) Mimmelusa Creek flows  
into Big Bear Lake which can  
be seen in background. Author  
examines an ore specimen (left)  
in one of the old prospector  
holes, and (opposite page) finds  
a few specks of gold while  
panning the creek.*

# of Minnelusa Canyon

by George Pfleger



**G**OLD HAS been mined in the Southern California San Bernardino Mountains since the middle 1860s. Fabulous discoveries were made and the land was claimed by the lucky ones who proceeded to reap the golden harvest.

Towns sprung up in Bear and Holcomb Valleys with the influx of miners and hopeful prospectors. Stores to fill grubstake orders, restaurants to feed the hungry and saloons to quench the thirst of all who came through the swinging doors were about all the settlements consisted of. Naturally we must include the gamblers who did their best to separate the miners from their hard earned gold or wages, and, for the most part, succeeded.

The best discoveries of gold in this area were made in the years following the Civil War when many ex-soldiers were on the loose and looking for a way to make a liv-

ing, get rich quick or just find adventure. Some men, after reading of riches for the taking, didn't have to think twice and they soon found themselves on the long, lonely road to California and perhaps . . . gold.

In the early 1870s such a man arrived in San Bernardino. He had no plans except to make his way the best he could with what jobs were available. He found work without much difficulty and was just getting settled when news of a new gold strike hit the papers.

The man from the east watched as men sold what little they possessed to get a grubstake so as to try their luck in the high mountains that surrounded them. He hung around the mining camps until he learned enough about prospecting to cut out on his own and try his luck.

Working the canyons and gullies was disappointing, but he was determined to find wealth and wouldn't leave the mountains until he did, the same vow made by thousands who eventually admitted failure and went home. The quest for gold from early spring up into the summer was without success but the courageous prospector did not drift from his purpose. The search went on. This was a stubborn prospector.

One sunny day his luck changed. While walking along the north side of Bear Valley a cool stream of water reminded him of his thirst and strolling upstream he found a place where the water was moving slower and he bent over to drink.

A pebble caught his eye. He picked it up for a closer examination. It was yellow.

He had found gold! Sitting down near the creek, he studied the small nugget resting in his hand and dreamed of all the fine things and the good life the treasured metal would buy for him. He was rudely rocked from his dreams by the realization that all he had was ONE small

nugget; it would take many like it to give him the things he wished for.

Knowing the gold was not born where he had found it, the most sensible thing to do would be to find out where it came from, upstream. Week after week he combed the canyon looking for the mother lode. And evidently he finally found it.

He was reported seen in San Bernardino with his pouch filled with nuggets, both large and small and the good life was finally his-his dreams fulfilled. A claim has never been filed on this rich placer mine and from all reports he mined it secretly for years without revealing its location, not even to his family.

After his demise, a map, worn thin and badly blurred was found in his billfold. But it didn't betray the old man's secret, showing only the stream and several trees. Only the deceased miner knew where the gold would be found using the reference points. His secret had died with him.

The story of the lost mine in Minnelusa Canyon persists. Some call it a myth. Others, including this writer, believe it exists; that it is in the canyon and will some day be found.

Finding the stream is no problem be-







*Looking up Minnelusa Canyon away from the lake and in the general area where author thinks the lost diggings are located.*

cause of a sign on the highway a few miles east of Fawnskin reading "Minnelusa Canyon." Here we parked and the quest for gold began. Checking out the stream near the road, we were able to get a little color in the pan—a good indication of an upstream source.

Gaining permission from a property owner at the mouth of the canyon, we began an intensive search for such things as old tools, tin cans, diggings, a campsite, remains of a cabin or shelter—anything that would tell us someone had spent a lot of time in one place.

For the first few hundred yards the canyon is choked with brush, vines and briars; a good hiding place for the mine. On the west bank, in about 150 yards, we found an old digging high up on the bank.

It is about 15 feet long, six feet wide and four feet deep and filled with brush. Fallen branches and a tree trunk lie across one end.

Could this be the lost mine? Clearing out the debris didn't take long and soon we were shoveling out the rocks and dirt that had fallen in over the decades.

Using the metal detector in the cleaned out pit proved encouraging. The earphones screamed and the needle on the dial went around and hit the peg. We had metal under foot. Could it be gold?

Digging feverishly, we discovered the cause of the positive reading—magnetite, or iron, big chunks of it in clay. Still, we searched for gold. After all, isn't it usually found in connection with magnetite?

Three hours and two broken backs later,

we finally gave up. No gold was in evidence. But we did find every shade and texture of clay and a small amount of asbestos. A little sleuthing amongst the neighbors solved the mystery of the pit. It seems some residents of the area, back in the 1920s, did prospect this spot for asbestos for a time with limited luck. It would have been easier on the liniment bottle had we known this sooner.

The old miner was supposed to have stated that the mine was located where the canyon gets steep; so upstream we went. About a quarter of a mile up we came to some 100-year-old prospect holes

### CAUTION!

The entrance to Minnelusa Canyon is marked by a sign on State 38, a few miles east of Fawnskin on Big Bear Lake. Park your car under the trees by the highway. Do NOT drive up the Minnelusa Canyon Road as there is no place to park. You may hike up the road to where it crosses the creek and then take the path along the creek and up the canyon. The search area is above the homes at the base of the creek. DO NOT GO ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. The area above the homes is part of the San Bernardino National Forest. DO NOT SMOKE OR LIGHT MATCHES IN THE AREA AND WATCH OUT FOR RATTLESNAKES.

in magnetite outcroppings. How do we know these holes are so old? Simple, no tin cans.

There are several stone claim monuments, now collapsed, erected to the old-timers; indications they thought they had something but were disappointed — so much that they threw a mining pick into the rocks, there to remain until we came along and found it. The handle remains in fairly good shape, and is still usable. This is the only piece of equipment I have found in the canyon to date. But it stands to reason there is more. After all, the gold nuggets weren't dug out with sticks and fingernails. The old miner hid his tools at his secret mine somewhere in the canyon.

If you get a chance to get by this way, take a stroll up the trail and if you can find an ancient camp, chances are you'll find some rusty mining tools and a gold pan stashed in the rocks nearby. If you are this lucky, you could be within a stone's throw of the "Lost Mine of Minnelusa Canyon." □

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**A** LONG THE South Fork of the Merced River in Mariposa County, California, approximately four miles south of its confluence with the Merced, rock foundations and disintegrating machinery compose a silent memorial to a long forgotten mining community. Nestled amidst green hills and rollicking river, this is the site of "Hite's Cove" and the Hite mine, one of the most colorful and productive in Mariposa County history.

John R. Hite found his golden dream in this tranquil canyon in 1861 quite by accident. While crushing some rock samples by the river, his Indian wife slipped away to attend an Indian celebration at Indian Flat over the ridge on the Merced. Hite chased the fleet-footed girl, but soon tired of the vain pursuit, and sat down to rest—in the middle of a bonanza!

Before anyone was aware of his find, Hite had accumulated \$50,000. His first milling process was by arrastra, and he packed ore to the river on donkeys. By 1886, the rich yield enabled him to establish a 10-stamp mill, equipped with a 500-foot flume to bring water from the river, and a cyanide plant. A tramway was also constructed to haul the ore from his mine directly to the mill.

# HITE'S COVE

by Jay Widener

But John Hite was more than a miner; he was a builder. From the proceeds of his own mine, he built a village of homes, a large hotel, shops, and a stable, and soon had a community of several hundred people. He planted a two-acre garden, and raised a variety of vegetables; and a fountain was constructed that played in every direction with breathtaking beauty.

An eighteen-mile wagon-road was constructed from Mariposa at a great expense—a road that in the early 1870s became a snow-free route for Yosemite tourists, who spent the night at Hite's Cove, and

then continued their journey into the valley by saddle.

During the 17 years that Hite operated his mine, he took out \$2,500,000. He invested heavily in San Francisco real estate and ranch property throughout the state, and in August 1879, sold his mine to the Clark and Bothwell Company for over \$600,000.

This ended in litigation in 1882, and from 1883 through 1903, the property was managed by various lessees and owners with little success. In 1905, the Yosemite Mining Company made an unsuccessful attempt to open the mine, and in





*While chasing his Indian wife, Hite discovered gold and then built one of the richest operations in the Mother Lode Country. Today, all that remains are (left) crumbling foundations, (right) abandoned ore crushers and (below) rusting machinery.*



of this year, we were visibly impressed by the few signs of digging. It seems evident that here indeed is a virgin site for bottle and relic buffs, and very possibly for the amateur prospector.

The trail to Hite's Cove begins at the confluence of the Merced and the South Fork on State 140, approximately 18 miles north of Mariposa, at the site of Major Savage's trading post. Following the pictorial South Fork, the trail is easily navigable by even the least seasoned hiker.

The old narrow and steep wagon-road north from Jerseydale is still accessible, but is restricted to four-wheel-drives. This route also necessitates fording the river on foot at the end of the road, an impractical feat during wet or high water seasons. Before using this road, I would strongly advise contacting Roger Warren, Fire Control Officer, at the Mariposa office of the U.S. Forest Service, who can give you information on road condition.

And don't hesitate to introduce yourself if you meet another bottle buff at Hite's Cove—it may be Roger! □

1938, the property was acquired by the Minerals Engineering Company of Los Angeles who did some work, but no production was recorded.

After Hite extracted his millions, he turned to ranching at his Indian Peak Ranch. Tiring of this, he left his Indian wife at the ranch, and went to San Francisco to stay for awhile. While there, he became seriously ill and had to go to a hospital, where he was nursed back to health by nurse Nettie Craven. Miss Craven was certainly aware of the prize she tended in her capable hands; but for whatever reason, she made Hite her special

patient, and soon she and Hite were married.

Thus Hite, a declining old man of 70 years became, in 1898, the defendant in the famous Hite divorce trial, in which Lucy Hite, an Indian woman, was the plaintiff. After trial and appeal, Lucy was awarded \$16,000 plus \$5,000 attorney fees, and apparently, the Indian Peak Ranch on which she lived.

Hite's Cove today is still a setting of serene beauty, unpolluted by the tidal wave of tourism that has overtaken the majority of ghost towns. On two trips into the area, in August of '71 and in March

*Oregon has beautiful coves such as Gold Beach (left) near the Rogue River and spacious overnight camping areas (below) along its 400-mile coastline. All photos courtesy Oregon State Highway Department.*

by  
Eleanor  
Visser

# RIDING OREGON

ZANE GREY once wrote, "... The happiest lot of any angler would be to live somewhere along the banks of the Rogue River, most beautiful stream in Oregon . . . and the coldest, swiftest, deepest stream I have ever fished." The famous author had two missions—fishing and writing—and he pursued both as long as he lived, much of the time at his remote cabin which still stands on the Rogue River.

The Rogue River, as a sport-fishing river, ranks among the great salmon and steelhead streams of the world, many of which Zane Grey fished. It is also renowned as a boating and vacation area having been named one of the seven "Wild Rivers" of the "National Wild and Scenic River Systems."

Along its shallow, lower thirty-two mile section, the Rogue is an easy-to-reach, wilderness playground. Countless boaters, campers and anglers every year visit this wild river country. Another ex-

citing experience is riding the hydro-jet Mail Boats on this stretch of the river. You relax while the boats take you on a jaunt into isolated scenic splendor and through some of the most spectacular untouched wilderness in the world. The trip is a photographer's, botanist's and historian's delight.

You can reach the Rogue, located on the southern Oregon coast 40 miles north of the California-Oregon border, from north or south on Interstate 101. For nearly 400 miles this panoramic highway hugs the rugged Oregon coastline where wild, turbulent rivers rush out to merge their fresh water with the salt water of the Pacific, and where hundreds of seals cavort on the off-shore rocks.

In the small coast towns of Gold Beach and Wedderburn, which nestle on each side of the mouth of the Rogue, you will find modern, ocean-view motels priced at \$10 to \$16 per day, and several fine restaurants. If you are a sea food fancier,



*Tourists go along for the ride in the mail boat from Gold Beach up the scenic Rogue River. One-day trip includes lunch at a riverside ranch.*



# 'S ROGUE RIVER



there is daily fresh salmon and shell fish brought in from the icy waters of the Rogue and ocean by the fishing fleet based on the river at the Marina. If you have your own camping equipment, there is a tree-shaded modern campground with water, tables and a boat ramp a few miles up the Rogue from Gold Beach. But, wherever you settle down, when you watch the red-gold sunset color the sky over the sea, you will know you've come to a very special place.

Although the U.S. Mail Boats run all year from the Mail Boat landing in Wedderburn, between May 1 and November 1 you should make night-before reservations for the 9 A.M. departure. Adult fares are \$5.00, children 4 to 11, \$3.00 and for the younger children there is no charge. Family-style luncheons, which are served up-river at Singing Springs Ranch, are also arranged for in advance at a cost of \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children. Wear casual clothing, and take a jacket with you

because the wind whistling down the canyons in early morning and late afternoon can be chilly, even in midsummer. Brimmed hats and sun glasses are advised for the warm, bright sun during the middle of the day.

The 64-mile round-trip Mail Boat ride is over the fascinating lower "River of the Rogues" which was named by pioneer French trapper-explorers because of the roguish and hostile Indians who lived along its banks. Known in the early history of southwest Oregon as Rogue River Indians, it was from them this third largest river in the state derived its name.

A local Indian hunting and fishing guide, who knows well the remote wilderness areas of Oregon, tells the life story of the famous Rogue River to all who will listen. Its origin is at Boundary Springs in the high country near the northern border of Crater Lake National Park. He describes its swift passage down from the mountains, its serene glide through the



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populous upper Rogue Valley and the city of Grants Pass. Then is wild dash through Hellgate Canyon and north to Hobson's Horn and Sexton Mountain Pass.

From there the river cascades through Green Knob, Agness and Bushy Bald Mountain, dropping 900 feet in its roaring, riffled rush through the vast forests of the Coast Range, to finally emerge at Gold Beach. On its 213-mile journey, the Rogue gathers the waters of the sizable Illinois and Applegate Rivers, and countless smaller streams.

The Mail Boat trips over the shallow riffles of the lower 32 miles of the Rogue excite thousands of travelers each year. Especially designed and built to skim over riffles and rocks, the fast, open, shallow-draft hydro-jet craft are known as Mail Boats because they daily carry mail and supplies to isolated homes and resorts along the river. In addition, they carry from 30 to 50 passengers on each trip in the summer months. These modern, sleek boats are Coast Guard inspected.

The river pilots are skilled, licensed boatmen, who know every bend, riffle and rock in the river and, as they swing their craft expertly around treacherous sandbars and huge boulders, their passengers lounge on comfortable, wide, cushioned seats to watch the panorama of scenery unfold and to take pictures. This reminds one of riding in sight-seeing boats propelled along canals in amusement parks where you watch constantly changing scenes on each side.

Through loud-speakers the friendly pilots, who stand on platforms at the rear of the boats, point out historical markers and points of special interest, including remnants of old mining camps left from the 1850s, when millions of dollars in gold were taken out of the Rogue valley. And they tell the part the river played in the Gold Rush days, as well as legends of Indian history.

One such legend relates how Indian braves had to prove their love for their sweethearts by swimming the icy, tumultuous waters of the Rogue in winter. One brave drowned while proving his devotion, and ever since his death his sweetheart climbs on a rock at the river's edge at nightfall, opening her arms wide and singing her mournful plea for his return. Beguiled, like Odysseus to the sirens, passing fishermen would plunge into the wat-



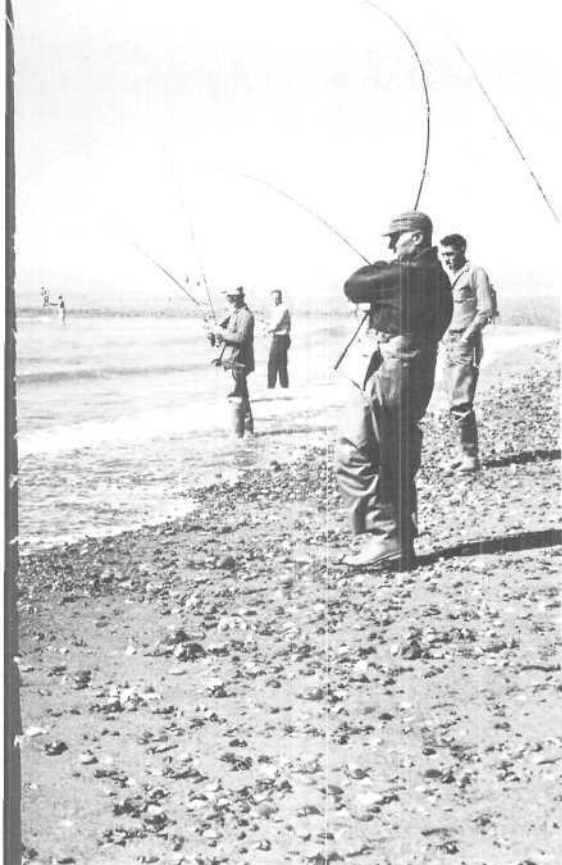
er toward her, only to be drowned, as was her lover, in the icy, swirling currents.

On the journey the boats pass Painted Rock, a towering cliff, which was once the site of an Indian village. You can still see Indian messages carved on the side of the rock facing the river. The pilots recount the names of creeks, rocks and riffles, bestowed by early day prospectors, such as: Wake Up Riley Creek, Whiskey Creek, Elephant Rock, Nail Keg Riffle and Mermaid Riffle, where the Indian maiden's song for her lover still drifts in the air.

The Mail Boat trips are a delight to camera buffs. Movie cameras whir as around each bend of the river new vistas of primitive scenery, wild bird and animal life appear. You may see deer, bear and raccoon along the banks or scampering up into the forests. You watch a doe as she brings her fawn to the river's edge to drink, and shows not a trace of fear as she looks curiously at the passing boat.

Bald eagles, blue heron, hawks, cranes, gulls, pelicans and innumerable smaller birds make their homes along the river, and many fly companionably along with the boat for a time.

Strange nests of ospreys, looking like giant salad bowls, are perched on the tops of snags. Ospreys are rare, large hawks that sail the river canyons searching for fish they catch with their claws. The pilots



*An angler lands a 36-pound Chinook Salmon near the mouth of the Rogue River. Fishing is excellent both in the ocean and all along the Rogue.*

Here is the tiny Agness United States Post Office, one of the smallest in the country and just about big enough for one person to stand in, which was established in 1897. From here mail brought by the boats is distributed to scattered settlers and trappers.

If you decide to remain at Singing Springs for a day or two cottages, set in wooded areas beside wildfowl ponds and rose gardens, are available at about the same rates as accommodations in Gold Beach and Wedderburn. You will be tempted to stay and make the trip back down the river another day.

Should you be fortunate enough to visit the Oregon coast, to ride a Mail Boat up and down the riffles of the Rogue, and enjoy the restful peace of mountains, forests, streams and ocean you will, for a while, forget the nerve-shattering noise and confusion of the everyday world.

Whether you capture the essence of the Rogue River in photographs, movies, or only as pictures in your mind, it will always stay with you. And you'll believe what Zane Grey wrote in his journal, "... the spell of the river is overpowering, and you long to return to it." □

also cater to still camera enthusiasts, and stop the boats for picture taking when good shots come into view.

The river is a botanist's dream and, as the Mail Boats proceed in the crystal clear air between alternating cliffs and open glades, you are treated to picturesque views of moss-covered rocks, trees, shrubs and wild flowers. Red-barked Madrona trees, sprouting bright red berries, are colorful between dark, cool, fragrant evergreen branches of Douglas fir, Port Orford cedar and Ponderosa pine.

There are glimpses of broad-leaved evergreen trees known as Oregon Myrtlewood. These rare Myrtlewood trees, whose wood is highly prized for making beautiful bowls, trays and art objects, grow only in small groves scattered in valleys and along rivers in southwest Oregon and the northwest corner of California. The many varieties of trees, with their varying shades of green, make striking contrasts of color with flamboyant wild rhododendron, azaleas and foxglove—some of the estimated 3,000 higher forms of plant life native to this area.

The two-hour trip upstream ends at the hamlet of Agness, and the resort of Singing Springs Ranch, which are located at the top of a cliff. You climb up the side of the cliff on a guard-railed path, but passengers unable to climb are taken by the truck up a backwoods road to the resort.

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# INDIAN TRAILS OF '72

by Enid C. Howard

NAVAJO TRAILS of 1972 bear little resemblance to the horse and foot trails used by Indians through central Arizona more than a century ago. Today, smooth ribbons of asphalt unwind over dune and prairie in this land of rock and sand where towering buttes are lost to sight in desert haze.

The modern Navajo travels the roads in his sporty car or late model pickup, shops at the local supermarket, gas station, TV and furniture store. He wears his cowboy or Mod apparel with dash and individuality, sparked with handsome, handmade silver jewelry, often set with priceless turquoise, which is so right with his dark hair and strong features.

He is employed at a mechanized industry on the Navajo Reservation, either owned outright by the Tribe, or promoted on the land through lease. He might own and operate a service station, pilot a plane, raise cattle, work for the road department, teach school, deliver mail, work on the Navajo Police Force or as a forestry ranger. The Navajo Nation today is a busy network of modern thriving communities

linked by the common purpose of finding a better way to upgrade the Navajo standard of living.

The land of the Navajos is heaven-wide and spacious, and they are an industrious, charming and hospitable people. They invite you to explore their land of lofty monuments, glowing canyons and sweeping vistas, ancient legends and ruins, trading posts, modern motels, hogans and square houses, new schools and museums, flocks of sheep and goats, and exquisite native handcrafts. Every Navajo is fiercely proud of his land and, rightly so, as it is uniquely adapted to his way of life.

One can travel the four compass points of Navajoland and discover new depths to the character and life style of these quiet-spoken Indians. The communities mentioned here are but a small cross-section of this intriguing, dynamic and burgeoning nation.

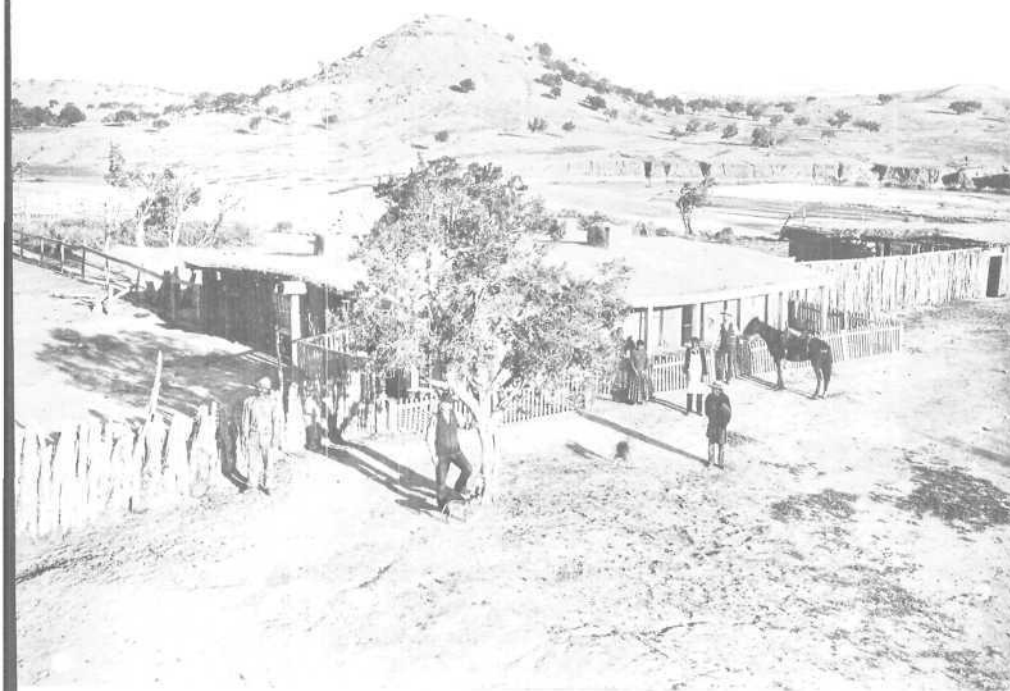
On the western side of the Reservation at Tuba City, one might take Navajo Trail 3 (State 264) to Holtvilla. Just to confuse the visitor, this stretch of Trail lies within the Hopi Reservation (600,000 acres) surrounded by Navajo land. Along this route are the mesa villages considered to be the oldest continuously occupied pueblos in America. The Hopi Indians were here when the Spaniards searched for the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola, and still live happily in the old structures.

Modern conveniences have come to the Hopi pueblos also. Invited to visit one of the pueblos, I was intrigued to see gas

*Although many of the younger Navajos now travel in pickup trucks, the horse is still the mainstay of Indians in the more remote parts of their reservations. The horse was brought to the West by the Spanish invaders. Color photo by William Knyvett.*







*Trader Don Lorenzo Hubbell's home and trading post as it appeared circa 1876. Today the area is a National Historic Site honoring the famous white friend of the Navajos.*

stoves, refrigerators, television, radios and comfortable furniture tastefully arranged in the centuries-old buildings.

Handcraft skills of the Hopi people are of good quality and they produce many artistic items native to the Tribe. They are famous for their authentic Kachina Dolls. The Hopi women create lovely baskets and pottery, while the Hopi silversmiths are skilled at inlay designs.

Mother of Pearl shell, set in silver for bracelets, pendants and rings, is highly prized by serious collectors of fine Indian craft items, although it is very expensive. No longer do the skilled artisans of the Indian Tribes sell their work for peanuts. They have been educated to know the worth of their craft, and this is as it should be. The Hopi Silversmith Guild Store, on Second Mesa, is the commercial

outlet for Hopi handcraft of highest quality.

Near the Guild store, the Hopi Tribe have modernized their image by constructing a new motel compound, The Hopi Cultural Center Motel, with 33 units, restaurant, lounge, display and sales for Hopi Crafts. Architecturally patterned after the old pueblo design, it is a delightful overnight stop for those who wish to spend some time exploring the mesa villages. Trailers can be parked near the motel, but there are no facilities.

Navajo Trail 3 eastward joins Trail 8, where turning north will bring the traveler to Chinle, and Canyon de Chelly, that place where all Navajo hearts dwell. If the heart were a painter, it could paint a poignant scene of suffering, of warring and massacre, within these canyon walls.

The pathos of yesterdays — when the Navajos were forced by U.S. Army troops to leave this sun-tinted canyon and endure banishment for four long years. The heart and soul of Canyon de Chelly is its timelessness. One feels there was no beginning, there will be no end to its existence, it will always be beautiful and beloved by the Navajos.

Canyon de Chelly National Monument Headquarters is perched atop a rise at the entrance of the canyon. Here the visitor may obtain information on the early inhabitants, study their artifacts and read the story of the Navajos who made "The Long Walk" in 1864 when they were removed to Fort Defiance. All this is displayed very effectively in the small but complete museum in the foyer. Visitor hours; winter, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M., summer, 8 A.M. to 6 P.M.

The Rim drive on the south side of the canyon is for passenger cars, and a "do it yourself" drive, for spectacular effects of depth and distance at the overlooks. Hik-

*Villages of the Hopi Reservation are located on three main mesas and are completely surrounded by the Navajo Reservation.*



*In contrast to the trading posts and tribal headquarters of earlier years, the architecture today is of modern design and in keeping with the landscape. This is the new Hopi Cultural Center with a motel, restaurant and craft shop.*

ing is allowed only from the rim to the White House Ruins. This is private land and visitors should not intrude or trespass. The people usually do not object to your photographing scenery, but do not "snap" the Indians unless you ask permission. You will be expected to pay for this privilege.

Accommodations at the Thunderbird Lodge near the Monument Headquarters are excellent, and arrangements to tour the canyon with one of the Indian guides can be made at the office. One should not miss the opportunity to observe the small farms of the families who summer in the canyon, and winter on the mesa tops, or to see and photograph the extensive ruins within the canyon.

Cottonwood Campgrounds adjacent to the lodge is super. Under shading old trees are restrooms, picnic tables, fireplaces and water, but no wood. There are trailer pull-outs but no hook-up facilities. It is operated by the Monument and is open April 1 to November 1.

Chinle, keeping pace with progress, has two restaurants, one motel, gas and groceries, modern schools and hospital facilities. The Chinle people go about their productive routines, but are not too busy to welcome travelers who come to visit their beautiful Canyon de Chelly.

From Chinle, retrace the route on Trail 8 to Ganado, for here is located the granddaddy of all Trading Posts. Hubbell Trading Post is a national historic site and the complete story of its history can be obtained in the trading room there. The National Park Service maintains the facility as a working example of how it was in 1876 when Don Lorenzo Hubbell was teacher, friend, fair trader and doctor to the Navajos. He guided the Indians through the first years of painful exposure to the whiteman's blunderings, temperament, diseases and strange ideas of food and

*One of the largest prehistoric ruins in Canyon de Chelly is the White House which can be reached by a trail from the rim of the canyon.*



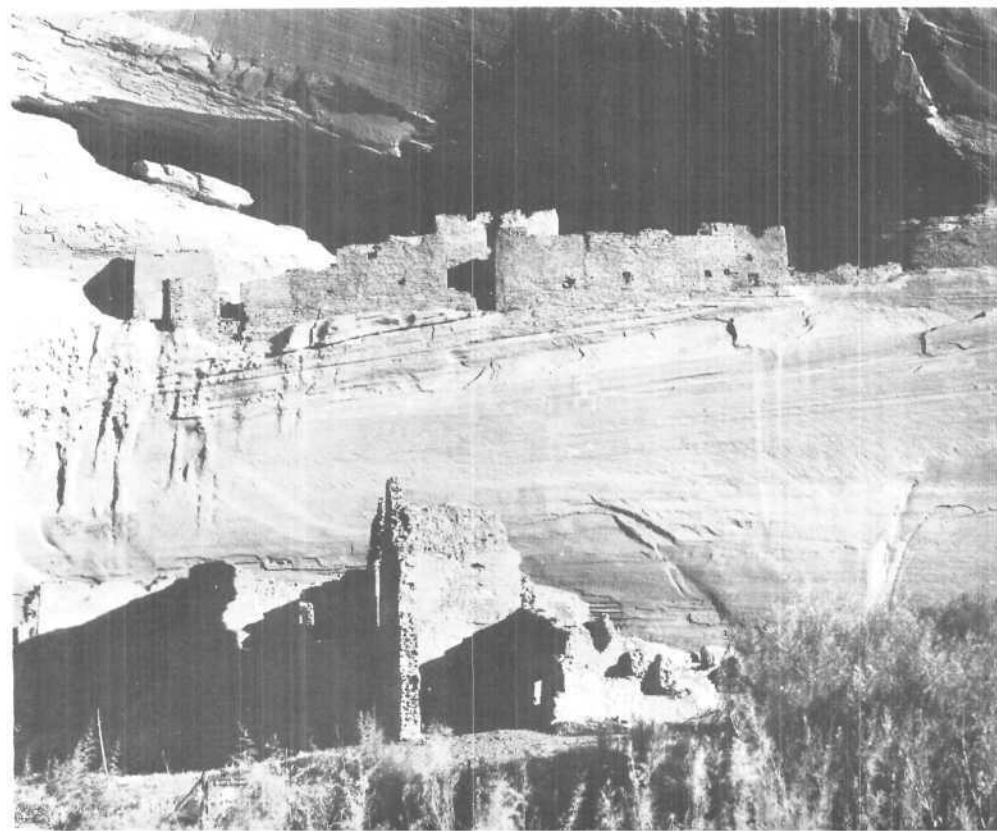
equipment.

If you happen to be interested in buying a "one of a kind" handmade Navajo rug of museum quality—here is the place to find it. Prices for these beauties are high, but worth the investment. Sometimes they are sold before they are finished, and often sight unseen, as the product of the expert weaver is known by serious collectors. Do visit the rug room at Hubbells.

Don Lorenzo Hubbell is buried on the small hill overlooking the Trading Post next to his wife, Lena Rubi, and his closest Navajo friend, Many Horses. This historic site is a tribute to an outstanding pioneer and fair trader to the Indian people, among whom he chose to build his home and live his life.

Twenty-seven miles east of Ganado via

*continued on page 32*







Color photo by Jack Turner.

# THE CACTUS MOUSE ...

## A DESERT DANDY

by K. L. Boynton

© 1972

ACCORDING TO cactus mouse philosophy, no matter how tough life in the desert may become, it is up to a fellow to maintain appearances. None of this sloppy desert-rat stuff for him. He dresses most fashionably: buff waistcoat satin smooth, white vest, white spats and shoes, white gloves and black whiskers.

Finding time to keep such elegant raiment in perfect order in a dusty desert

and when a fellow must do all his own work of food finding, food hauling and house construction, is not easy. Costume upkeep it seems, according to biologist Eisenberg's study, is both a time consuming and complicated affair.

It starts with a bath and, deserts being what they are, the mouse must provide water for it himself. He licks his paws, rolling them under his mouth to apply plenty of moisture. Then he's ready. His face is first on the agenda, and it is attacked vigorously with both paws. Starting with his nose, he works upwards and downwards, bobbing his head to aid in the scrubbing. His big ears get special attention (even scrubbing behind them) and ending with a final few good swipes for the top of his head and back of his neck.

His white vest is then licked until it shines with cleanliness, its gleaming fur then being combed and smoothed down neatly with his paws and nails. Now he goes after his sides, his forepaws reaching well up over his back as he turns and twists. Flanks, legs get their treatment; in fact he doesn't miss a thing. His tail comes last. Seizing it in his forepaws he hauls it up to his mouth, licking and smoothing it from base to tip. Ablutions now over, he does a job on his nails, picking and cleaning his toes with his teeth. A final shake and fluff, and he ready to go forth.

This small object of sartorial splendor is wise in his fastidiousness for much of his success in the desert is due to his cleanliness. Constant fur care keeps fleas and other unwelcome residents to a minimum. Body cleanliness also cuts down the possibilities of internal parasites. Further, as the work of biologists McNab and Morrison showed, this same fur coat, thicker in proportion to his body mass than that of his cousins among the white-footed mice living in forest or prairie lands, helps shunt aside desert sun radiation.

Insulating against heat, it is a great factor in keeping his temperature down. Oddly enough, his fur coat also helps cool him off when his temperature reaches the point where body heat must be unloaded. Compressing his fur, he squeezes out the heated air. Spreading and opening his coat, he lets more heat escape. If he has to resort to licking his fur under extreme heat conditions, he adds evaporative cooling.

A cactus mouse prefers dim light, and is therefore active at dusk, perhaps as a

safety adaptation from daytime predators.

These little fellows have outstandingly large eyes, the weight of their lens being at least five times that of the lens of the house mouse. As zoologist Walls showed, large eyes let in more light and increase the clarity of the image on the retina, thus giving much better vision in dim light. The ears of these desert mice are larger even than those of the white-foots of prairie and forest. Tests have shown that they can hear in the ultrasonic ranges, and it well may be they may make high frequency sounds themselves and use them as a bat does in echolocation enabling considerably more accurate activity in darkness.

The mouse's business day or night is put in foraging for food—seeds, fruit, grain, insects—some of which is eaten on the spot, or in the case of seeds or grain, may be packed into the mouth and lugged off to be buried in secret caches dug in the sand near the home nest. Burying such supplies is a very big deal. A small hole must be dug, the seeds shoved out of the mouth and into it, and the hole covered up again, the mouse being very careful to smooth the ground and disguise the spot with elaborate forepaw action.

If nest building is in order, dry grasses, soft parts of plants, feather treasures and the like are hauled to a selected site in a cactus or rock crevice or other such protected spot. Here the mouse proceeds to shred it into still finer softer material, holding it in his forepaws, splitting and pulling it with his teeth.

When a pile is accumulated, he bur-

rows into it and, turning his body round and round, molds it into the ball shape so characteristic of white-footed mice everywhere. The entrance is a nice round hole, just big enough to slip through, and the mouse may make a round wad of material and have it handy to use to plug the door shut when he is in residence.

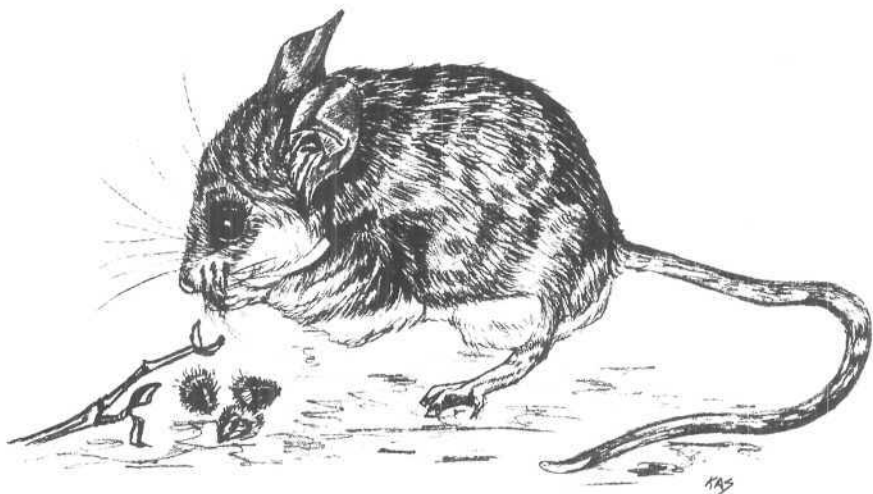
Explorer by nature, the cactus mouse dearly loves to poke his long nose into everything, his body stretched out, his ears up, whiskers forward, testing, testing. From time to time he may sit up to look around, to listen harder. In the wild, exploring is a good way to set up a home range where the terrain becomes well known, where food sources become located, and many good escape places are at hand.

It is also a fine way to meet the neighbors, a matter of social consequence. Male cactus mice usually avoid encountering each other, and hence fights seldom occur. Should a fray be unavoidable, both contestants go at it with vigor, biting, scratching, clutching each other and rolling head over tail, each squealing to add sound effects. It ends when one goes onto his back, closing his eyes in submission, at which point victor and vanquished go their ways to take a bath, naturally.

In the exploration, should the encounter be some highly decorative little item who perchance had built her nest in a cactus not too far away, things would be different. Naturally she would not be avoided, and naturally there would be no fight, and naturally one thing would lead to an-

*continued on page 36*

Sketch by Karen Fowler





# New Mexico's Manzano Mountains

by Thelma E. Honey

**D**O YOU want to go where the gang doesn't go? Try the cool Manzano Mountains near Albuquerque, New Mexico, in the shady Cibola National Forest. Six campgrounds, 80 miles of hiking or horseback trails, innumerable spots for small trailers or tents, and much more, await you.

"Archeologists consider the area one of the most interesting in the United States," Ranger Bill Russell told me. "It is overlaid with three cultures—early Indian pueblo, Spanish mission era, and today's villages where both are commingled with a bit of Anglo influence."

This compact range, 26 miles long and seven miles wide, is rugged country with

peaks up to 10,000 feet. Five campgrounds are accessible from State Highway 10 south from U.S. Highway 66. The unique villages of Chilili, Tajique, Torreon and Manzano cling to the eastern foothills on State 10. The present buildings have thick, red adobe mud walls, as did their predecessors which have disintegrated into earth hummocks.

Gold seekers, spurred by rumors of gold bars buried by fleeing Spanish priests during the 1680 Indian Rebellion, have dug unsuccessfully for years.

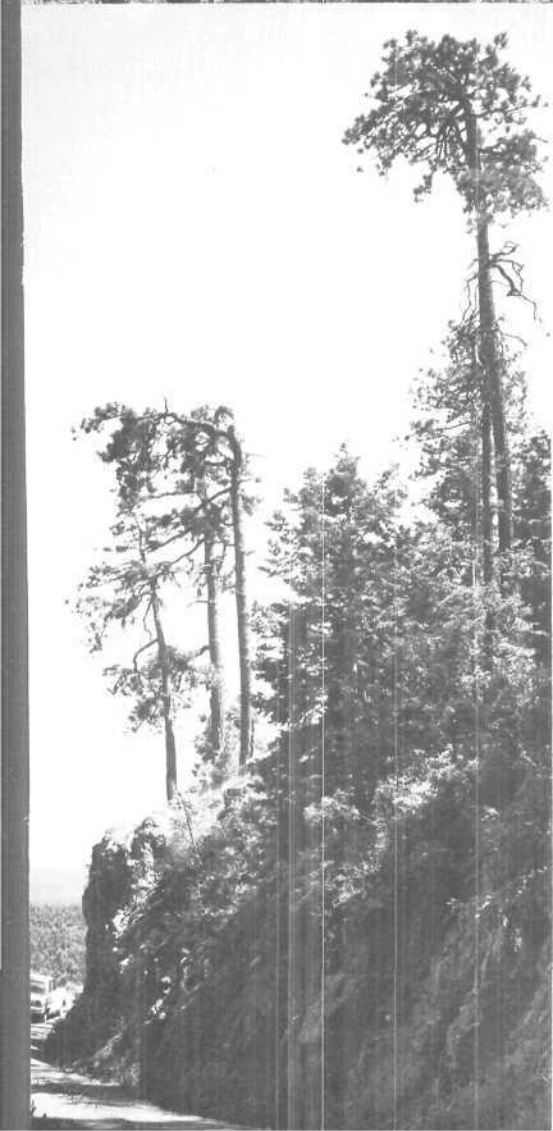
Turn west from Tajique for approximately 21½ miles to reach the small Tajique Canyon Campground (2 acres with 5 units for camping and picnicking). This







*There's no smog to obstruct the view (opposite page) from the Capillo Peak Campground, or from the Capillo Peak Fire Lookout (above) in the Cibola National Forest. The Lookout Road (below) is one of many scenic trails winding through the Manzano Mountains. Photos from U. S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region.*



is the only one that doesn't have safe drinking water. The Fourth of July Campground, 5 miles further, is the largest with 26 units and is the most commonly used.

New Mexico's only stand of hard maple enhances its fall beauty. Trails lead to Mosca Peak with splendid vistas of the Rio Grande Valley to the west and the fertile Estancia Valley to the east. A crest trail south traverses the length of the mountains.

Although there are springs, take a canteen of water when hiking or riding. Horses may be trailered into Fourth of July and other canyons. Check with ranger for exact water locations of springs, as sources dry up at certain times of the year. Signs mark the trails which have grown up with bushes in spots. Extensive horseback trips on these trails are not for the tenderfoot trail rider without a guide.

The quaint village of Manzano is the gateway to the other eastern campgrounds. It was named for the ancient apple trees still growing there. Natives and experts argue over planting dates from 1676 to 1800.

A road leads northeast from Manzano

to New Canyon (10 units) and Capillo Peak (7 units). From the Capillo Lookout Station, your vision is the only restriction on how far you can see. The road to this 9,368-foot peak is steep with switchbacks and trailers over 16 feet are not permitted. To be safe, check with the Cibola National Forest Ranger, at Mountainair, on road conditions and the length of any trailer you plan to pull into the mountains.

A short walk from any campground gives a refreshingly new perspective of the mountains with their conifer and aspen-covered peaks, deep valleys, limestone buttes and wildlife. Deer, turkey, red and blue fox, the little tassel-eared Abert squirrel, blue scale quail and band-tail pigeons may be seen by the quiet, cautious observer. Pinon jays scream at picnickers and constantly spy for a brief opportunity to steal a morsel of food.

My dog and a jay teased each other one entire afternoon at New Canyon over a few scraps the dog didn't want but protected. For the fishermen, the little Ta-jique Creek and Manzano Lake are stocked with trout each spring. Although fishing isn't a major attraction of the area,

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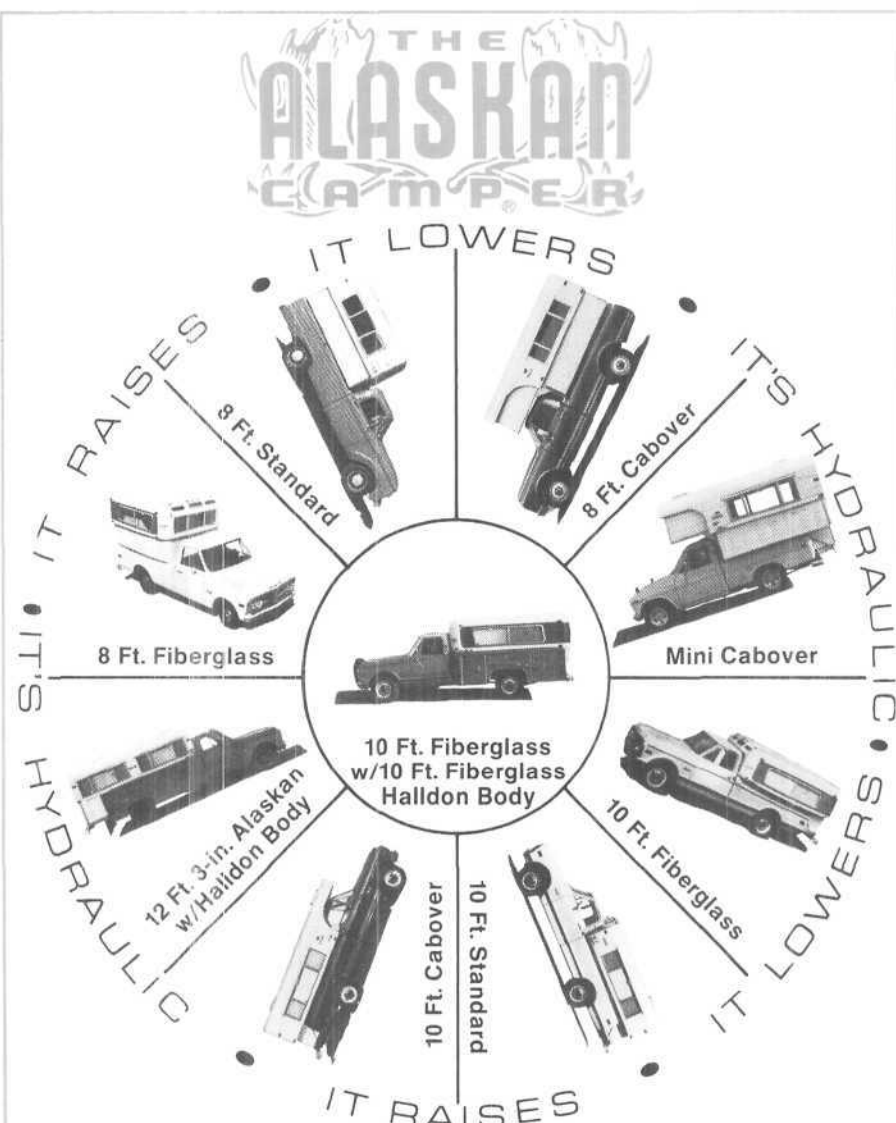
some anglers do snag 12 to 13-inch trout.

Mission churches in three well preserved pueblo ruins are a century and a half older than the famous missions of Arizona, California and Texas. The largest, oldest and best known ruin is Gran Quivira National Monument, 25 miles south of Mountainair. The Mogollon people dug pit houses here about 800 A.D. Blue gray walls of unhewn limestone, built by their descendants, rise majestically on the knoll above the parking area, picnic grounds, visitor's center and museum.

The other two ruins are state monu-



ments and were constructed of red sandstone, which glows blood red in the brilliant sun. Quarai is 8 miles north of Mountainair. The walls of this mission, La Concepcion Purisima, stand almost to their original forty foot height. An atmosphere of worship pervades the roofless sandstone cathedral with its azure sky ceiling. Birds sing from niches and winds sigh in the pines and cottonwoods. It's no wonder visitors report seeing ghosts and hearing their wailing on moonlight



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*Manzano is one of several Spanish-American towns located on State 10 which runs along the base of the Manzano Mountains.*

nights! The other ruin Abo, is adjacent to U.S. 60, 12 miles west of Mountainair.

There is only one campground, John F. Kennedy, on the west side. It covers 10 acres with 18 units. Turn east from NM 6 which proceeds southeast from U.S. 85 at Belen and terminates at U.S. 60, 22 miles west of Mountainair.

There are many other spots where one may camp. Cottonwood Springs and Pine Shadows Spring in the southern part are beautiful examples. From either of these, Manzano, the highest peak in the range, can be reached by trails. Turn north from U.S. 60 about 16 miles west of Mountainair into Priest Canyon. Watch closely for the single brown and white sign right at the road. Before pulling any rig into this area, check the ranger as the dry washes change with rains.

I drove a Comet station wagon over the 12 miles to Cottonwood with no difficulty. However, care was required as there was some sand and I skirted a few high centers. The drive through Priest Canyon, not particularly scenic in itself, presents a magnificent view of the towering mountains into which it leads.

From any campsite, you are only an hour or two from many other attractions. The modern city of Albuquerque has

parks, zoo, museums, art galleries, swimming pools, golf courses, North America's highest and longest tramway and the historic Old Albuquerque Plaza founded in 1706.

In the Plaza you will find Indian women in their colorful costumes, sitting on the broad sidewalks, selling silver and turquoise jewelry, beads and pottery. The shops around the Plaza feature native perfumes, leatherwork, western and fiesta clothes, silver jewelry, paintings, woodcarvings and pinatas. Cafes serve delicious Mexican and American cuisine.

State 10 takes you into the Sandia Mountains with ghost towns of the gold, silver, coal and copper mining era as well as summer and winter sports. To the south of the Manzanos you will find the Valley of Fires State Park in the heart of a huge lava flow, Elephant Butte and Caballo Lakes with plenty of fish and water sports.

The Manzanos offer uncrowded campsites for being lazy, shutter-bugging, exploring or whatever your bag may be. The only time during the year when they attract near-capacity crowds is the Fourth of July weekend. So, if you want to enjoy what the gang hasn't found, I recommend the "Apple Tree" Mountains. □

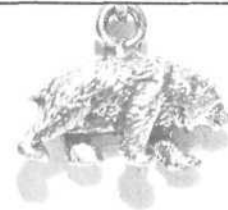
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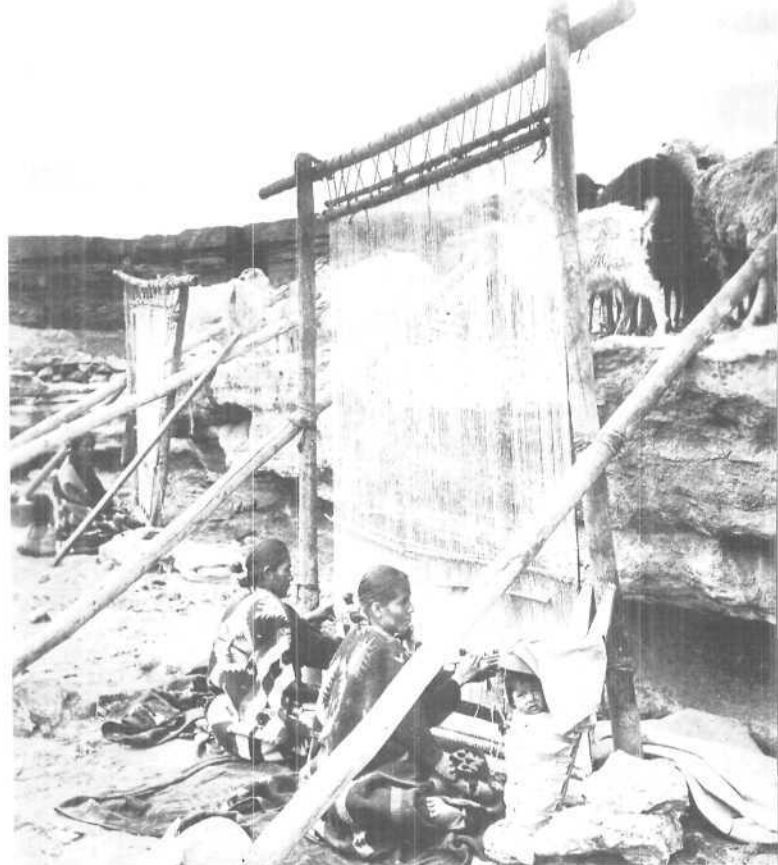
*continued from page 25*

Trail 3, the Navajo Tribal Capital and Administrative Center at Window Rock, Arizona, is the hub of the Navajo Nation. The Tribal Council conducts the business affairs of the sixteen-million-acre Reservation in an attractive modern building of russet-colored sandstone, quarried in the area. Window Rock has much of interest for the visitor. An excellent tribal museum, located in the fairgrounds complex, is open seven days a week. Geology, archeology and the history of Navajoland are well presented. The original hand written document of the United States Treaty with the Navajo Nation is on display under glass.

A copy of this famous—or infamous—treaty and the discussions between the Navajo chiefs and General W. T. Sherman that led to the signing is available. Send \$1.00 check or money order to Desert Magazine Book Shop, Box 1318, Palm Desert, California 92260.

Don't pass up the Navajo Arts and Crafts Guild shop in Window Rock. The Guild shops have been established at vari-

*Navajo women weaving rugs along the roads through the reservation was once a common sight as shown in this old photograph. Today, fewer rugs are being made and most are woven inside the craft centers or in remote parts of Navajoland.*



ous locations on the Reservation to provide a commercial outlet for quality Navajo rugs, paintings and fine turquoise jewelry, made by skilled Navajo silversmiths.

The "New Look" has not destroyed the

Navajo's capacity to enjoy life. If you should see a crowd of happy, laughing people gathered at a rodeo corral, stop and watch the Indian cowboys rope a calf, or ride an exploding bronc. Horses are a way



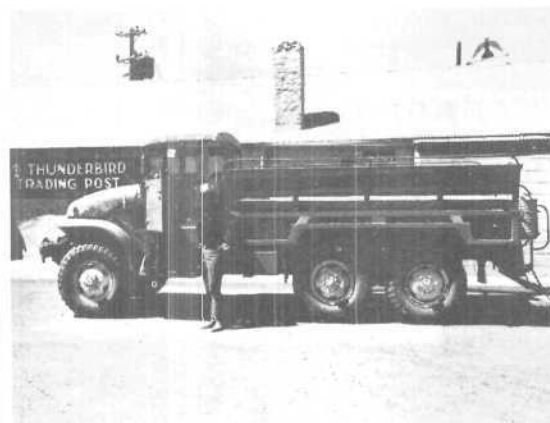
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The full day trips start at 8:30 A.M. and return at 4:30 P.M. This trip includes a delicious lunch while in the Canyon. Minimum of 4 fares.

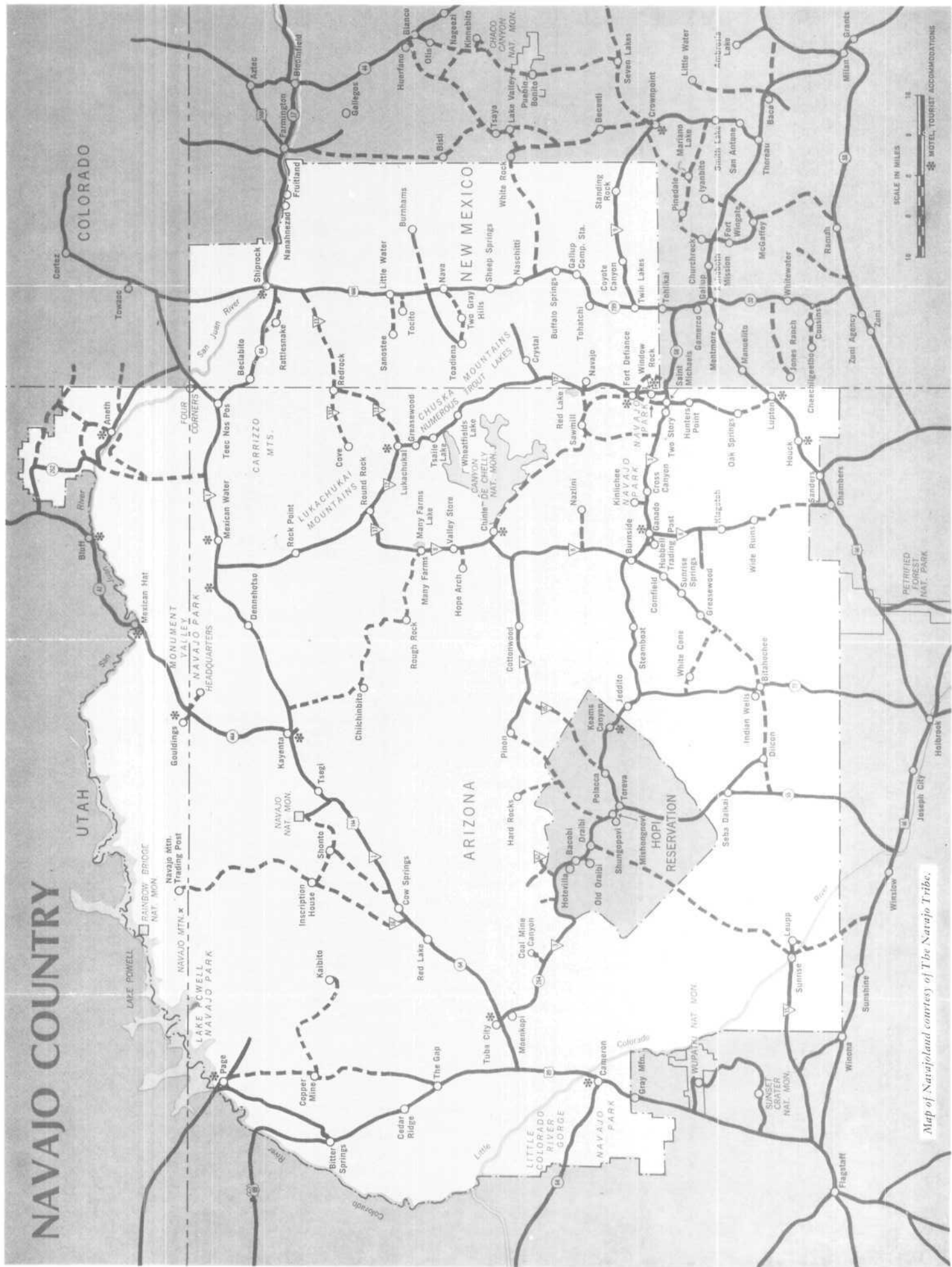
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# NAVAJO COUNTRY



Map of Navajoland courtesy of The Navajo Tribe.



*The annual Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial (above) in Gallup, New Mexico features parades, Indian dances and craft displays from tribes throughout the West. Handsome Navajo jewelry—and that of the other Indian tribes of the West—such as this sand-cast naja (below) today is considered to be equal to that of the finest artistry in the world.*

of life for the Reservation people, and the local rodeos are hotly contested. Ask permission to take pictures at these events.

The culmination of all Indian Tribes activities for the year takes place in August when all "Trails" lead to Gallup, New Mexico, for the world famous Inter-Tribal Ceremonial. Into the exhibit hall pours the finest Indian craftsmanship and art of

the year, representing every type of handwork of all Indian Tribes.

For the ceremonial, each Tribe wears their elaborate traditional costumes in the parade and tribal dances. A whoop-it-up rodeo is part of the four-day program to entertain the thousands of visitors who trek to Gallup to see this colorful pageant.

This year the Inter-Tribal Indian Cere-

monial will be held August 10 through 13. For complete information on this outstanding four-day event write to the Gallup-McKinley Chamber of Commerce, P. O. Box 1395, Gallup, New Mexico 87301.

Ask for a list of motels and trailer parks for the area, or maps and brochures for any other point of interest in Navajoland, or other Indian Reservations. Gallup is known as "The Indian Capital of the World" and the Gallup Chamber of Commerce acts as an information center on tourist attractions and facilities for all Indian Tribes.

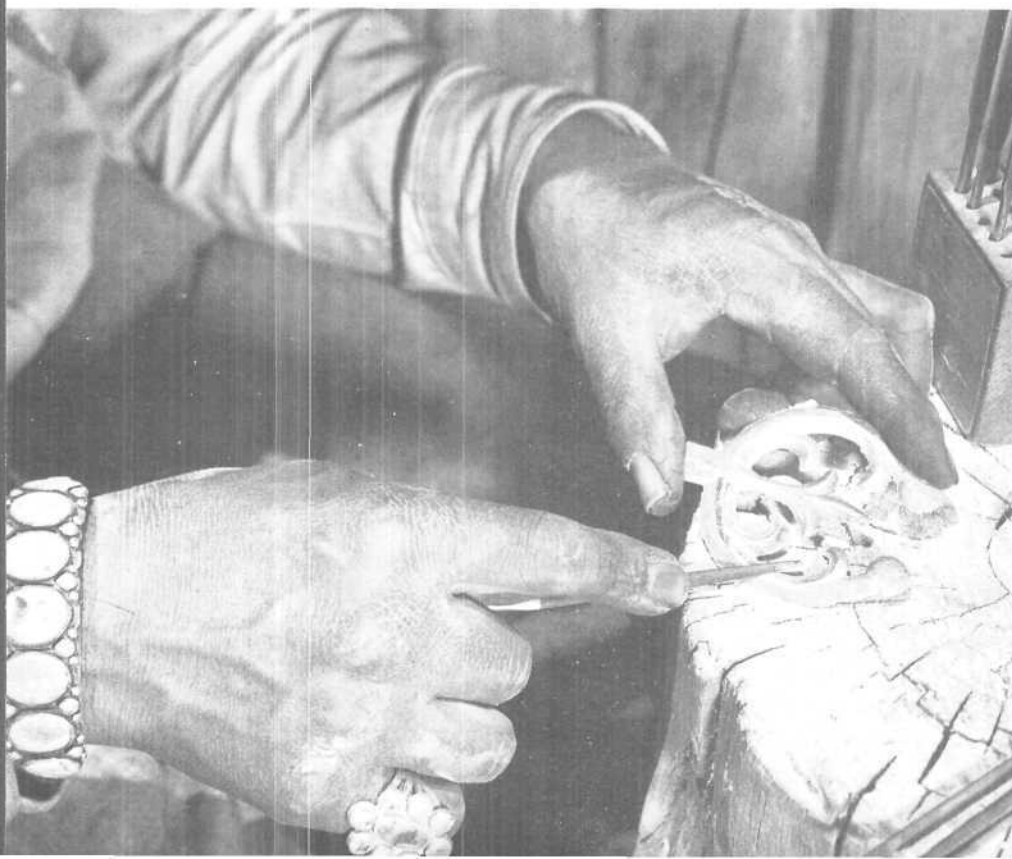
If your interest lies in exploring ancient Indian ruins, in the northern region of the Reservation are Keet Seel and Betatakin Ruins, in the Navajo National Monument, accessible from U.S. 160. From there you might swing further north to the land that must be seen to be believed—Monument Valley! Its unique beauty invades your heart!

Yes, the Navajo, Hopi and other Indian Tribes are on the move, and they know where they are going. The Indians in Arizona have grasped the opportunity for determining personally their own future. The most dramatic change on the Reservations has been the result of commercial and industrial projects developed by the Tribes. To create employment for the people near their homes, Tribal Government has assisted several private firms to locate on the reservation.

Education has assumed a major role with the people, and an extensive adult education program is given priority. More than 42,000 young Navajo people attend school regularly, and the number of Navajo students attending college and universities is at an all time high.

That the Navajo has great stamina, adaptability and determination to travel new Trails in 1972 will become very evident to the visitor in this sprawling, vibrant and enchanting land that is big enough and wide enough for elbow room and where a man "can see clear into the day after tomorrow."

Navajoland is filled with the sights and sounds of life, but retains the intimate feeling of being one with the ruggedness of the wide open country. Here there is time enough to absorb deeply of the sun, the breeze, the far horizon, and listen to drifting sand whisper through sage and mesquite. Tread softly, with courtesy and consideration, and you will always be welcome. □







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A mother hummingbird feeds her two seven-day-old babies. The smallest and swiftest of North American birds, hummers are fearless and pugnacious. They feed while hovering and can even fly backward. Baerwald used a 200mm Exacta lens.

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## CACTUS MOUSE—A DESERT DANDY

*continued from page 27*

other. Unlike many species of white-foots who throw their spouses out immediately upon setting up housekeeping, Mrs. Cactus Mouse is quite tolerant, with the honeymoon going on perhaps even after the birth of the litter.

Small families are the rule here, a definite adaptation to desert conditions. Three or four make a batch; the youngsters themselves are very large, being already about 13 percent of their adult weight. This, too, is a desert advantage since raising already bigger and fewer offspring is much easier on the mother in terms of water loss in nursing and energy expenditure.

Cactus mice don't look like much when they arrive. Apparently hairless, blunt of head, eyes shut tight, even their paws seem to be unfinished. But they have their whiskers and can make their wants well known, and besides their mother is there to clean, warm and feed them. The young get on with things themselves, their ears up in 24 hours, their front teeth in by the fifth or sixth day.

They are especially fast at getting their eyes open in 10 to 15 days, compared with up to 28 days in some other species of white-foots. They also grow faster, and hence the cactus mouse tribe has a good setup in desert conditions. Successful reproduction can be carried on during the short period when rainfall and food are around, the young are ready to breed themselves as early as 28 days for the females, 40 for the males.

Biologist Terman, interested in white-footed mice generally, pointed out that in nature the number of these animals per acre is consistently small. Further, outbreaks of over population do not occur in white-footed mice as they do in house

mice, lemmings, or meadow mice. Tests made in labs, too, under the very best mouse-happy conditions with plenty of food, plenty of space and good living conditions showed that they breed to a certain point, and then while conditions still all seemed perfect, the white-footed mouse population leveled off. Somewhere, somehow, still unexplained satisfactorily, there is an efficient population control mechanism at work that keeps the population of these little animals at relatively low and stable levels.

The young stay in the home ranges of their parents until they mature, at which time they extend the explorations they have already been making further and further until they find a place for themselves. Here each may live for the duration of his life.

Interested to see how this little creature gets along so well under desert conditions, McNab and Morrison found that in addition to the insulation advantage of the fur pelt, the cactus mouse has another big ace; his basal metabolism is about 20 percent lower than would be normal for an animal of its size. They feel that this could well be an adaptation to desert conditions, pointing out that the poorwill, a most successful bird in the desert, is off some 33 percent in its expected metabolism.

The cactus mouse is a quiet species, easy going, tolerant, a conserver of energy. With a low basal metabolism there is less need for evaporative cooling, and hence the animals are far better able to stand high temperature living. They are, in fact, well adjusted to high temperature.

By and large, white-footed mice are a pretty smart lot, unrelated, by the way, to house mice and rats, belonging instead to the same tribe as lemmings, hamsters, muskrats, pack rats and voles. Quick and agile, they show great joy in activity wheels in laboratory colonies, preferring square wheels, of all things, which require split second timing and coordination to make them work fast and well.

With family traits of the white-foots behind him, and with his specific adaptations to desert conditions, no wonder the cactus mouse is successful. His kind will continue to be the Best Dressed Citizens of the desert for many a day to come. □

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# Calendar of Western Events

*This column is a public service and there is no charge for listing your event or meeting—so take advantage of the space by send-in your announcement. However, we must receive the information at least three months prior to the event. Be certain to furnish complete details.*

JUNE 28-AUGUST 27, MAJOR EXHIBIT OF NAVAJO BLANKETS from public and private collections created during the 19th Century. Hammer Wing, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum closed Mondays.

AUGUST 10-13, INTER-TRIBAL INDIAN CEREMONIAL, Gallup, New Mexico. Fifty-first year of this outstanding Indian celebration which includes display and sale of Indian crafts of the Southwest, parades, dances, rodeos and many other events. A tribute to the American Indian.

AUGUST 12 & 13, GOLDEN GATEWAY OF GEMS sponsored by the San Francisco Gem and Mineral Society, Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park. Complete show with demonstrations.

AUGUST 12 & 13, MOUNTAINEER GEM CLUB'S 7th annual show, Big Bear City Fire Station, Highway 18, Big Bear City, California. Write Frank Bowes, Box 414, Big Bear City, Calif. 92314.

AUGUST 31-SEPTEMBER 4, 16TH ANNUAL GEM SHOW of the Antelope Valley Gem and Mineral Club held in conjunction with the 31st Annual Antelope Valley Fair and Alfalfa Festival, Lancaster, California. Gems, minerals, fossils, Indian artifacts, bottles. Co-hosted by Palmdale Gem and Mineral Clubs. Admission to grounds, 75 cents. Write P. O. Box 69, Lancaster, Calif. 93534.

SEPTEMBER 2-4, ANNUAL NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES Convention and Show. Multnomath County Exposition Center, North Portland, Oregon. Sponsored by Oregon Agate & Mineral Society. Write Norman Nicholson, 514 S. W. Lobelia, Portland, Oregon 97219.

SEPTEMBER 9 & 10, ANNUAL GEMBOREE sponsored by the Santa Maria Gem & Mineral Society Fairgrounds, Santa Maria, Calif. Admission and parking free. Write Billy Joyall, 1617 North Lynne Dr., Santa Maria, CA 93453.

OCTOBER 7 & 8, ANNUAL HARVEST OF GEMS sponsored by the Centinela Valley Gem & Mineral Club, Hawthorne, Memorial Center, Prairie and El Segundo Blvds., Hawthorne,

Calif. Admission and parking free. Write Charles Bawolski, 407 East Hilldale St., Inglewood, Calif. 90302.

OCTOBER 7 & 8, GEMARRIFIC SHOW, 16th annual event sponsored by the South Gate Mineral and Lapidary Club, South Gate Park Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. Admission and parking free. Write Amber Hull, 9838 Elizabeth St., South Gate, Calif. 90280.

OCTOBER 8, ROCK SWAP & FUN DAY, Farmer's Free Market, 30th & S Streets, Sacramento, Calif. Free booths for swappers, tailgaters welcome. Write Sacramento Diggers Mineral Society, 5250 38th Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95824.

OCTOBER 20-23, ANNUAL TECOPA-SHOSHONE ARMAGOSA ROCKHOUND DAYS, Tecopa, Calif. Parade, street dancing, miner's drilling contest, etc. Write Lloyd Miller, Box 24 Tecopa, Calif. 92389.

OCTOBER 21 & 22, 23RD ANNUAL GEM SHOW sponsored by the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, Palm Park Youth Center, 5703 S. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif. Admission and parking free.

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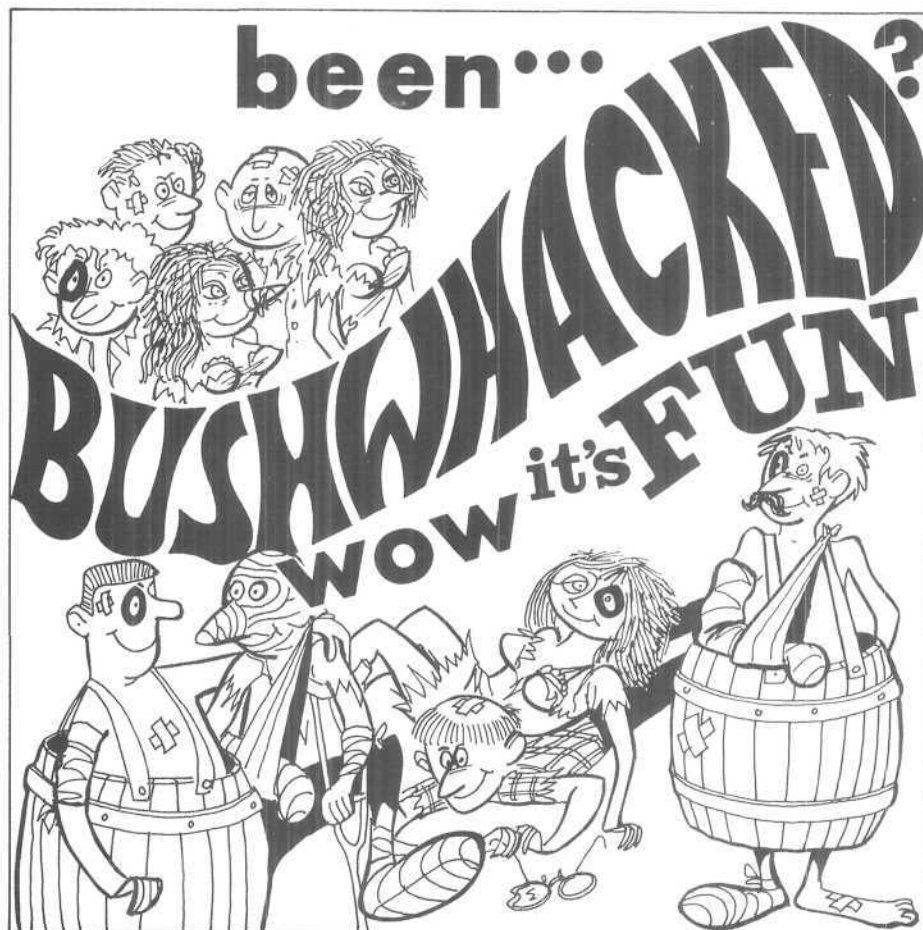
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# Rambling on Rocks

by Glenn and Martha Vargas

## METEORITES: Rocks from Outer Space

**A**NYTHING CONCERNING outer space is a timely subject today. The recent trips of the astronauts to the moon, resulting in pieces of the moon being brought back, have interested everyone. The obtaining of these samples is a feat certainly worthy of note, but the fact remains that pieces of rock have been reaching us from space ever since the formation of our globe.

We do not know whether the rate of reception of this material has varied much in the past, but it is going on today on a large scale. Every night it is possible to see meteors flashing through the sky. On occasions, there are reports of these striking the earth, and a piece or pieces being found by someone. Most of the material that falls to earth is dust and unseen, but this amounts to a number of million tons per year.

Only a very small amount of this is in pieces large enough to be classed as meteorites. While an object is moving through the sky, it is known as a meteor; after it falls to earth, it becomes a meteorite.

Meteorites fall into two classes, stony and metallic. The stony type is least known and understood, as most of them soon alter due to weathering, and quickly become unrecognizable among other rocks.

At the time of falling they are covered with a thin bluish skin, the result of surface melting while traveling through our atmosphere.

Only about one-sixteenth inch, or less, of depth of the surface of a meteor is molten at any time during its flight, and as this burns and vaporizes, more of the bulk is melted. With this process, it is necessary that the piece be originally very large if it is to become a meteorite. Small ones simply burn away into ash.

Metallic, or iron meteorites as they are usually called, do not alter greatly except to take on a thin coat of rust. They are composed almost entirely of iron, plus a variable amount of nickel. Other minerals have been found in them, including diamonds, and a unique mineral called moissanite. Moissanite has not been found as an earth mineral, but has been manufactured as a furnace product—we know it as silicon carbide, and it is extensively used as an abrasive for cutting gems and many other things.

Some of the diamonds found in meteorites have been large enough that they might be cut into gems, but are always opaque. A few very small clear ones have been found.

Where do meteorites come from? Many people have thought that they came from the moon because of its closeness. Many scientists eagerly awaited the first moon landings, expecting to find answers to many questions. Moon rocks have been found to be very different from known meteorites, and also very different from most rocks on earth. Now there is serious doubt about any meteorites coming from the moon, and evidently bodies further out in space are the origin.

Pondering the origin of meteorites can be interesting, but, on the other hand, we have some very interesting meteorites to ponder. Perhaps it is with tongue in cheek that we call some rocks meteorites, but

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there seems to be no other category to place them in. These we call tektites. Generally they are glassy, much resembling the volcanic glass we call obsidian. Most are dark, usually black, some are lighter colors, and one locality produces a transparent green. All have a superficially similar look; a rounded, button-like, or drop shape with a deeply pitted surface. Internally, too, they are nearly identical, having a swirled appearance, and usually containing bubbles. There seems to be little doubt that these moved through our atmosphere, but no one has been able to really prove or disprove this thought.

The best and first known locality is in Czechoslovakia, near the Moldau River. They have thus been given the name, moldavites. They are a bright green to dark green, transparent to nearly opaque, about the size of a walnut and larger, and are totally unlike any rocks anywhere in the vicinity. At first they were thought to be slag from an ancient glass factory, until nearly identical material was found in other parts of the world, far from centers of any type of civilizations. The transparent moldavites have been cut into lifeless, but interesting gems for collectors.

Tektites are found in a large area in the Pacific Ocean—embracing the Philippine Islands, the Java Sea, Indo-China, and Australia. They have been given local names, such as Australites, from Australia, and Billitonites, from Billiton Island in the Java Sea. There are other areas also, such as Africa and South America.

A new thought concerning tektites gives a new twist to the "out-of-space" thinking. Each area where tektites are found is roughly circular, from a few miles to many hundreds of miles across. The theory offers the idea of a large meteorite falling in about the center of the area. The impact would have greatly heated the surrounding rocks, melting them. At the same time, this molten material

was splashed far out into space. When they fell back, they now behaved like any other object moving through our atmosphere. This would explain the tektites being found in relatively small areas, and that only one type appears in one area. Now we have the possibility of earth rocks being flung into space, and coming back in a different form. At present they have not been ruled out of the meteorite class, and probably will not.

A material whose origin is not readily explainable quickly assumes an aura of mystery, and takes on lore far beyond its importance. The Billitonites, especially, have been cut into gems. These go by the names of Agni-mani, Agni-gemma or fire pearl. The prefix *agni* is from the ancient Sanskrit language and means fire. The mani is of uncertain origin, but is claimed to mean fabulous jewel. The suffix *gemma* is evidently from the Latin meaning bud. Thus the names can mean anything from fire bud to fire gem, or whatever the imagination desires. A few years ago these gems were sold with the inference they would protect the wearer from harm and give him great powers and wisdom, generally increasing his good fortune.

According to articles appearing in various periodicals, the gem was owned and worn by rulers in Europe and the Orient, and even great army generals were listed. Investigations into the source and availability of the gem soon showed an uncertain source, and that they were sold by only one individual. Obviously a clever piece of merchandising! Reports of good fortune of the owners did not quickly flow in, and the fad soon died.

Today, all of the civilized world is watching the flights into space, and all that they will tell us about the universe. If we will look under our feet, and can recognize what we see, some of the story is there. □

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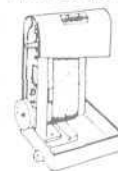
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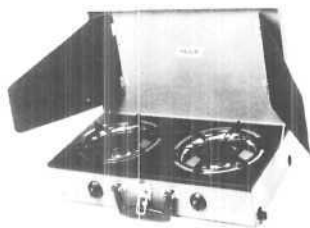
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For more information write to Paul-in Products, Dept. DM, 30520 Lakeland Blvd., Willowick, Ohio 44094.

# Desert Shopper

## New and interesting products

Items appearing in this column are not paid advertisements



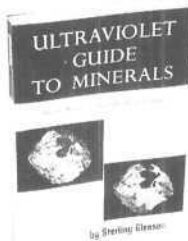
### Console Seat

A new console seat which fits most four-wheel-drive vehicles and many pickups has been developed to increase the front seating capacity of the vehicles. Constructed of vinyl Naugahyde and foam rubber upholstery mounted on a sturdy steel box, it is installed between bucket seats. When not being used as an extra seat, the back folds down for an arm rest. The seat also unlocks for large storage space in steel box. Colors available to match individual seat upholstery. Priced at \$59.95. For additional information write to General Technology of Arizona, Dept. DM, Box 1134, Scottsdale, Arizona 85252.



### Trail Bike Travel Trailer

A self-contained travel trailer specifically designed to legally transport five trail bikes while it comfortably shelters up to nine people is now being manufactured by Journeyman Trailers of Downey, Calif. Called "The Smuggler" it is fully equipped and is offered in a choice of eight models ranging from 14 to 20 feet. En route to your destination, a section of Ozite-carpeted floor unfolds to create a hardwood staging area in the trailer for three bikes. A five-foot hitch tongue carries another vehicle across the trailer front while a rear bumper turns over to carry the fifth bike astern. For information write to Journeyman Trailers, Dept. DM, 12400 Benedict Ave., Downey, CA 90242.



### Ultraviolet Guide to Minerals

This authoritative book, reprinted four times since first published in 1960 and out-of-print for more than a year, is once again available through Ultra-Violet Products, Inc., a leading California company in the field of mineral identification and suppliers of equipment for mineral prospectors and rockhounds. The "most complete book on fluorescent minerals," it has 244 pages with 60 four-color photographs and is for both professionals and hobbyists. Written by Serling Gleason, it contains seven Field Identification Charts covering the common fluorescent minerals found on field trips, including the principal fluorescent ores and some gem and semi-precious stones. Sells for \$5.95. Write to Ultra-Violet Products, Inc., Dept. DM, 5114 Walnut Grove Ave., San Gabriel, Calif. 91778.



### New Free Cepek Catalog

Dick Cepek's 1972 off-road and camping equipment catalog is just off the press and contains hundreds of new items not listed in his previous catalogs. Dick started his present business more than 10 years ago when, after buying his first 4WD, he decided the manufacturers were not putting the right kind of tires on desert-type vehicles. He started selling "flotation" tires and today his large company offers a complete line of "distinctive products for the automotive sportsman." Write to Dick Cepek, Dept. DM, 9201 California Ave., South Gate, Calif. 90280 and include your zip code.

# Letters to the Editor



Letters requesting answers must include stamped self-addressed envelope.

## Animal Tracks . . .

Please renew our subscription for another year. The field trips of Mary Frances Strong are great and we get to go to the places not too far from Havasu. We carefully save all past issues for future reference for trips we plan when we will have more time.

K. L. Boynton's animal articles are also great. We often get side-tracked by animal tracks while rockhounding. Could Mr. Boynton possibly draw the foot prints (or body markings in cases of lizards and snakes) that the animals make and include them in his articles?

NORMAN & BEA MIDGLEY,  
Lake Havasu, Arizona.

*Editor's Note: Several other readers have suggested that animal tracks or markings be included with Mr. Boynton's articles. We plan to include such markings as soon as the technical reproduction can be accomplished.*

## Desert Dweller Speaks . . .

In the letter by Willie Worthly in the June '72 issue he stated that there were 660 four-wheel-drive vehicles in the Anza-Borrego Desert. Yes, that is true and we that live here in Salton City are now suffering from that weekend.

This gentleman should come out here when the wind storms occur. Where that trail was made there is always a great cloud of dust that descends upon our town. This four-wheel-drive run and two 100-mile dune buggy races have helped to prompt the residents of this area to get a petition signed by nearly all the responsible residents of the town and present it to the County Board of Supervisors asking for controls of this sort of enterprise.

The litter so aptly described as discard is the cause of great complaint by many. Many vehicles are wrecked or fail in the desert and owners walk away from them. More of the same type of people come along and shoot holes in

the cars, break all the glass and, last but not least, set fire to the remainder. This makes it impossible to remove the remains to the dump. Enclosed are photographs as proof.

The responsible clubs and groups that are trying to educate the desert traveler will just have to try harder. There are many existing trails and some beautiful sights to be seen here in this part of the desert, but unless some personal restraint is exercised by the ones who go across country and tear up the terrain, there will be nothing left but to ask for controls in this area.

We are drivers of four-wheel-drive vehicles and are in the desert four or five times a week. We have watched for the past four years this desert deteriorate and debris pile up at various places. Wild life has virtually disappeared until you can hardly find a kit fox or coyote. Even the lizards and snakes have vanished. The practice of bikes chasing rabbits and foxes has ceased because there are no more of these poor animals to be run over by these human predators.

The carrying of firearms for "personal protection" is ridiculous. This practice should be banned so the irresponsible can no longer shoot up signs and kill the few remaining kit foxes and rabbits. If the gunmen are so afraid of their lives, then they should stay home.

I am not against urban people coming to the desert. But when you come to the desert, treat it like you owned it and had to keep it up as we do.

ORVILLE SMITH,  
Salton City, California.

## Live and Learn . . .

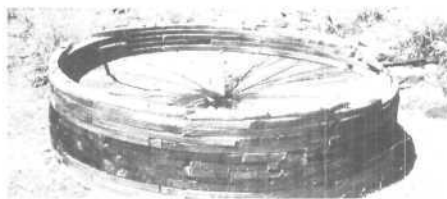
I greatly enjoyed the June issue, especially the "Letters to the Editor" section. The pollution scene bothers me, but I just cannot place my finger on it.

Personally, I found out about pollution years ago. I always carry a bag for garbage and assumed that everyone did that. But on a trip with a friend in 1965 we stopped and had lunch in our car along the highway, after which I told him I would take the refuse to the can alongside the road and asked him where his was. He hemmed and hawed and said he didn't have any.

I got out of the car and started toward the refuse can and then remembered my friend had eaten two hard boiled eggs, a tomato and a sandwich, so I looked at his place beside the road and found he had thrown the refuse out. I picked it up and took it to the refuse can, all the time wondering about my friend. Of course, he's 76 years old now and he should know better.

Also, you state in your article, "Desert Diggings" that the archeologists are comparing our travesty with the "Fall and Decline of the Roman Empire." More power to them, but in the same issue (June '72) in the article, "Mission San Antonio de Padua" the author states "sickness continued to devastate the ranks of the natives and by 1830 their population was only 681." I just don't have the answer to all this. Let us pray there is one.

L. L. PONATH,  
Hinkley, California.



## Bodie Puzzle . . .

I am enclosing a photograph which I took in the town of Bodie, California. The object is about 10 feet in diameter and two feet high at the outer edge. The center tapers in and is filled with rocks . . . probably by tourists. There were two of these, about 20 feet apart and were located near the main area of town. Would you please tell me what they are and what they were used for?

RONALD S. JOHNSON,  
Santa Ana, California.

## Is It Rainbow? . . .

Must write and tell you how much I enjoy your magazine. Such an improvement since you have Mary Frances Strong and Jerry back with you again. I have taken your magazine for many years and read her book and she has never given us a "bum steer."

Regarding her article in the June '72 issue, I had an experience with what I thought was Rainbow obsidian. As you know, near Mono Lake in California there is a mountain of obsidian. I broke off several pieces and sure enough they showed "rainbow" colors. However, after several days, the colors faded and all that was left was the black color. I hope this is not so in this case.

As for the article by Stan Jones on fishing Lake Powell, it is a beaut! Let's have more of them. We have been to the lake, not for fishing, but it is a must for everyone.

By the way, I called on Harry Oliver not too long ago and he was in fine spirits. It is good to know that his old home "Fort Oliver" has been restored.

EDWARD L. OATMAN,  
Calimesa, California.

*Editor's Note: Relative to the obsidian, Mary Frances Strong says she is not aware that "Rainbow" type obsidian is found in the obsidian deposits around Mono Lake. However, being a good geologist and always wanting to investigate tips from readers, she would like to see the specimen. If Reader Oatman will send a piece to Desert Magazine, she will put it through the test and report her findings.*

## Can't Win Them All . . .

Thanks for sending the book *Cooking and Camping on the Desert* so quickly. We enjoyed all of Jack Pepper's advice. I was nearly bitten by a small rattler April 1st at Opal Mountain. Needless to say, between that and the pot of beans I had cooked in my new Dutch oven, we all almost made it to the moon before our astronauts did. My husband also burnt my first sourdough biscuits! But my stew and beans were great!

MILDRED HARLOW,  
Norwalk, California.





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